

Hafa Adai!

DeLeon Guerrero retains CCC board chairmanship. **PAGE 2**

AG: We are awaiting reports from DPS. **PAGE 4**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 85

www.saipantribune.com

MONDAY APRIL 29, 2024

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

GCA secures new 40-year land lease

» **With option to renew for 15 years**
» **GCA promises to make over \$4M improvements**

continue to operate on the 16,865 square meters of land on Navy Hill.

DPL special advisor David C. Sablan and GCA board chair Rev. Michael D. Rodgers Jr.

signed the lease agreement in the DPL's conference room.

See GCA on Page 4

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands and Grace Christian Academy signed on Friday a new 40-year land lease agreement in order for GCA and its church-related activities to

CUC board extends Terlaje's contract for 3 months until...

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors has extended for three months the contract of CUC administration chief Betty G. Terlaje, who has also been acting

See CUC on Page 4



Terlaje



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Grace Christian Academy board chair Rev. Michael D. Rodgers Jr. signs GCA's 40-year land lease agreement with the Department of Public Lands as DPL special advisor David C. Sablan looks on during the ceremony in the DPL conference room last Friday.

Norita is CNMI's first rep in Executive Fire Officer Program

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services assistant chief Cody T. Norita will be the first CNMI representative in the prestigious U.S Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program.

DFEMS proudly shares that its assistant chief, Norita, See NORITA on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services assistant chief Cody T. Norita, middle, will be the first CNMI representative in the prestigious U.S Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer program. Also photographed, left, DFEMS Commissioner Juan Pua and deputy commissioner Steve Mesngon

Kilili: Affordable housing program opportunities becoming accessible

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Agriculture-Rural Development and Northern Marianas

Affordable housing programs opportunities are becoming more accessible in the Marianas, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) over the weekend.



Sablan

Sablan said in his *e-kilili* newsletter that with Wednesday's Memorandum of Understanding signing between the U.S. Department of

Housing Corp. for the USDA's Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program, prospective homeowners in the Marianas will be eligible for mortgages backed by the USDA.

He said the USDA's Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program in the Marianas was terminated a decade ago, but he has been See HOUSING on Page 4

INSIDE



SUPPLEMENT

After departing the CNMI four years ago due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Hong Kong Airlines' long-awaited return is finally here with its inaugural flight arriving early this morning.

PAGE 5



SUPPLEMENT

Saipan is a melting pot of ethnicities and culture and so is the food. Join *Saipan Tribune* as it samples the mix of culinary delights.

PAGE 8



BUSINESS

Full Moon Restaurant is introducing an emerging trend in Korea to Saipan—a unique spot to get soju, hang out with friends, and have a wide variety of good quality Korean food and snacks.

PAGE 14



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

DeLeon Guerrero retains CCC board chairmanship

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Casino Commission board members elected Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero and Rafael S. Demapan to remain as chairman and vice chairman, respectively, during a board meeting last Thursday.

Mariano Taitano will remain the treasurer and was given the additional responsibility to serve as secretary.

➤ **Outgoing commissioners Dela Cruz, Mendiola deliver farewell statements**

Demapan will also be in charge of public relations for CCC.

The board members agreed that they will revisit their positions when two new commissioners will be appointed to replace outgoing commissioners Ramon M. Dela Cruz of Tinian and Martin T. Mendiola of Rota.

DeLeon Guerrero said a lot of people think that they conducted the election of officers because Dela Cruz and Mendiola are leaving.

DeLeon Guerrero said the practice or regulation says that they only serve the positions for one year, which starts May 1 until April 30 the next year.

After the election of officers, Mendiola and Dela Cruz delivered their farewell statements. Their term expires on April 30.

Mendiola said it's been a rewarding membership, but the actual reward in his opinion has not arrived yet.

He said he has been looking forward to see the product of a settlement deal with Saipan casino licensee, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

Mendiola said listening to IPI legal counsel Chuck Choi, he believes there is significant progress that can be built on coming up with a settlement.



BY **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
Outgoing Commonwealth Casino commissioners Martin T. Mendiola, extreme left, and Ramon M. Dela Cruz, extreme right, pose for a group photo with, from left, commissioner Mariano Taitano, chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero, and vice chair Rafael S. Demapan during a break of the board's monthly meeting last Thursday.

He asked IPI to make it a priority to address the burial of the ancient remains that were found in the IPI's casino/resort project in western Garapan.

"Because it might be the call of the spirits that has brought us to this point. So that we can refocus, and arrive at the best promise of future for the generations to come," said the tearful Mendiola.

Mendiola said he believes that there is promise for the casino industry.

"We just need to combine forces and work together from the governor, to the legislature, to this body," he said.

Dela Cruz said this casino industry can only be successful if every branch of the government come together to assess.

Dela Cruz said he was hoping that during the last six years, policymakers, lawmakers, and other regulatory agencies can appear before the commission on their regular monthly meeting so they can put heads together to address issues that are faced by both the commission and IPI.

"Sad to say whenever a member of the Legislature comes before the commission, you know, they always tried to chastise us, accuse us of you know, innuendos. And that never helps anybody," Dela Cruz said.

He said for the CNMI to be successful, he believes it's very crucial that the administration try to sit down with the investors or the business managers to try and address some

of the issues before jumping the gun and accusing like the commission members of being corrupt.

"The past year has been very difficult for me and colleagues because we come here to Saipan to attend our monthly meeting on our own expense. Nobody's helping us. We have volunteered our time," Dela Cruz said.

He said this time when the economy is really bad, the CNMI needs every single dime and quarter that it can put into the treasury to assist the government.

"But we have been unsuccessful because we are faced with challenges," Dela Cruz said.

He said super typhoons and COVID-19 affected everybody here in the Commonwealth.

Dela Cruz said if IPI is willing to be successful, they have to show a good faith effort in addressing all of the challenges and issues that have been brought forward by the commission.

Palacios says it's time for US Supreme Court to reconsider rulings on Insular Cases

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said on Wednesday that he believes it is time for the U.S. Supreme Court to reconsider its rulings on the Insular Cases.

Palacios said in an interview that the Insular Cases were




Palacios

carved out at a completely different time and different world.

"We live in insular areas. We're part of the U.S. There's really is no reason for that kind of policy," he said.

The Insular Cases are series of U.S. Supreme Court decisions that many describe as racist and that broke from prior precedent to justify colonial governance in the U.S. territories.

Recently, U.S. House Natural Resources Committee ranking member Raul M. Grijalva (D-AZ) and Congresswoman Stacey E. Plaskett (D-VA) were joined by civil rights groups and other allies to call on the U.S. Department of Justice to condemn and cease its reliance on the Insular Cases.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) through its Chairperson, hereby informs the General Public that the NMHC Board of Directors will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

a. Call to Order

b. Roll Call

c. Adoption of Agenda

PUBLIC COMMENTS

REPORTS

a. CORPORATE DIRECTOR

b. DEPUTY CORPORATE DIRECTOR

OLD BUSINESS

a. Homebuyer/New Construction Funding and Construction

b. Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Funding and Construction

c. Affordable Rental Housing

d. Garapan Annex and Other NMHC Properties

NEW BUSINESS

LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

EXECUTIVE SESSION


a. Personnel Committee Report

b. CFO


ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairperson of the Board



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM), hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on **Monday, May 6, 2024 at 2:30PM** at the DCRM Learning Center, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center II, on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Virtual participation will continue and encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/6706648315> or join via telephone by calling the DCRM office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance and most updated information as Zoom meeting access code may change.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Adoption of Agenda

D. Adoption of March 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW

1) CRM Permit No. SMS-2023-102

Project: CONSTRUCTION OF 42 UNITS HOUSING PROJECT

Permittee: MR. TING JIANG TANG DBA CANAAN REALTY, LLC.

The Canaan Realty, LLC is proposing to construct 42 Units Housing Rentals. The development includes office units, recreational rooms, community center, onsite laundry facility, mom and pop store, security house and fence. The project is situated on leased private lands identified as Lot Nos. 361-5, 361-R4, 361-6, TR 2254-3, TR 22553 and TR 22554-2NEW in As Lito, Saipan. Major Siting Permit Application No. SMS-2023-102 was approved by the CRM Board on March 20, 2024.


a. Agencies' Discussions

i. Opposition Letter from Adjacent Landowners


IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ RICHARD V. SALAS
Director, DCRM



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-018

CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE POTABLE WATER DISINFECTION SYSTEMS, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE FOR SAIPAN and ROTA

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply, Delivery, Installation & Maintenance of Calcium Hypochlorite potable water disinfection systems and supply & delivery of calcium hypochlorite for Saipan and Rota, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-24-018, Calcium Hypochlorite Potable Water Disinfection Systems, Delivery, Installation, and Maintenance and Supply & Delivery of Calcium Hypochlorite for Saipan and Rota"** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) May 9, 2024** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 24, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Rodolfo Rodriguez, CUC Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager, via email address rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

MTEC, MVA talk tourism on Tinian



MTEC

Fourth graders of Tinian Elementary School react to information about tourism presented by Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda on April 24, 2024. The MVA and Marianas Tourism Education Council conducted educational outreach at the school on Tinian.

The Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority took their presentations about tourism to Tinian last April 24, inspiring students with the message that tourism is a sustainable industry for their community and that "Tourism is Everybody's Business."

The tourism team led by MTEC chair Vicky Benavente first met with the fourth grade classes of Abby Erickson and Jocelyn King at Tinian Elementary School. When asked why they thought visitors would choose the Marianas as their next destination, students correctly volunteered "the beaches" and "the warm weather," as also indicated in the MVA's last exit survey of visitors.

The elementary school presentation was followed by 10th graders to Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, with emphasis on careers in hospitality.

"I learned a lot, especial-



ly about jobs in the tourism industry," said 10th grader Ainsley Ancheta. "I also know now what we can do as students to help our CNMI tourism industry."

The outreach team is engaging 4th graders, 7th graders, and 10th graders this year on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota with information and activities highlighting The Marianas' primary economic driver, how it impacts their lives, and ways students can support tourism even at a young age. The presentation also includes an overview of programs and activities of the MVA, including its annual signature events like next month's Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival.

In line with this year's school outreach theme, "Green Spaces, Memorable



MTEC

Tenth graders of Tinian Jr./Sr. High School with Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente, far left, and other tourism reps at the school on April 24, 2024. Representatives of MTEC and the Marianas Visitors Authority conducted educational outreach at the school on Tinian.

as' natural beauty in attracting visitors, including Tinian's iconic Taga Beach and Ta-chogna Beach.

Other MTEC board members are vice chair Glenn Policare (Kanoa Resort), sec-

retary Martin Duenas (MVA), treasurer Larissa Larson, Dr. Galvin Guerrero (Northern Marianas College), Larry Lee, Naomi Nishimura (CNMI Public School System), Gordon Marciano (Pacific Development, Inc.), and Dr. Yunzi Zhang (NMC).

Schools interested in starting a MY WAVE Club to engage students with tourism may contact MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or (670) 664-3200 for more information. (PR)

Places/Kâmpun Betdi, Kâmpun Rikuétdu/Llingil Leyil Walúwal," MTEC highlighted the importance of the Marian-



MTEC

Fourth graders of Tinian Elementary School with representatives of the Marianas Visitors Authority and Marianas Tourism Education Council following an educational outreach at the school on Tinian, the Marianas, on April 24, 2024.

ARMATECH



**Elevator,
Escalator, Lift
Installer and
Repairer**

Tel: (670) 234-8895 | Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-24-016

Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the replacement of the waterline at Sihek Dr. in Capital Hill and Tangan-Tangan Dr. in Papago with the installation of new 6-inch PVC distribution main including appurtenances, valves, fittings, fire hydrants, air relief valves, flush hydrants, pressure-reducing valve, and reconnection and relocation of existing service laterals to the right-of-way. The project also includes the construction of the waterline replacement along Kailing Dr. in Dandan. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **May 14, 2024 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-24-016, Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 4, 2024**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of **fifteen percent (15%)** of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 21, 2024**, to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Project Engineer via email at alley.reyes@cucgov.org also to Mr. Mark Liban via email at mark.liban@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 • Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 • Facsimile: (670) 236-9702
Website: www.NMJudiciary.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

STAFF ATTORNEY LAW REVISION COMMISSION

Announcement # JVA24-012

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the general supervision of Executive Director of Law Revision Commission. The candidate is expected to perform the following duties and has the listed responsibilities:

- Assist in the production, publication, and periodical revision of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Code (CMC) consisting of Commonwealth public laws and local laws in conformance with the Commission's scope of authority and already established office legal publishing stylistic standards and strict time lines.
- Assist in the production, publication, and periodical revision of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) consisting of Commonwealth administrative rules and regulations in conformance with the Commission's scope of authority and already established office legal publishing stylistic standards and strict time lines.
- The preparation of the CMC includes reviewing all public and local laws.
- The preparation of the NMIAC includes reviewing monthly Commonwealth Registers.
- Assist in the compiling and editing of the Reporter series, which includes preparing CNMI Supreme Court (i.e., appellate court) and Superior Court (i.e., trial court) decisions for publication by editing the decisions in conformance with already established office legal publishing stylistic standards and preparing head notes for each Supreme Court decision with analysis for inclusion in a head note digest system and citation tables.
- Assist in the production, publication, and periodical revision of the CMC Index, Digest of Decisions, and other legal publications.
- Research legal issues and prepare legal memorandums as directed by the Executive Director.
- Assist the Office of the General Counsel with procurement, human resources, legal analysis, and other matters as assigned.
- Perform other duties specified by the Executive Director, including but not limited to, assuming acting director capacity in the absence of the director.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The Staff Attorney must have a Juris Doctor degree from an ABA accredited law school and be admitted to the CNMI Bar, or admitted to another U.S. jurisdiction Bar Association so that they may qualify for temporary admission to the CNMI Bar as a CNMI government attorney. Directly related codification and/or legal publication experience is preferred but not required.

Keen legal analysis skills; strong writing skills with an excellent grasp of grammar and punctuation; proficient in operating a personal computer and working with MS Word and Adobe Acrobat; and impeccable organizational skills.

Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment. "Illegal drug" means a substance whose use or possession is controlled by federal law but that is not being used or possessed under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. (Controlled substances are listed in Schedules I-V of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308.)

Education completed in foreign colleges or universities may be used to meet the job qualification requirements if the applicant can show that foreign education is comparable to education received in accredited educational institutions in the United States.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide such evidence when applying for Judiciary jobs. Education received in foreign colleges or universities will be considered if the candidate submits an evaluation of the coursework from: (a) an accredited U.S. college or university; or (b) a private professional organization specializing in interpretation of foreign educational credentials.¹

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. The salary range will be \$60,000 - \$64,000 per annum.

INTERESTED PERSONS: Application forms are available at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices in Tinian at Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on weekends and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references to:

NMI Judiciary
Human Resources
Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 236-9818
Cell. (670) 783-8592
Fax. (670) 236-9702
hr.judiciary@NMJudiciary.gov

This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.nmjudiciary.gov>

The Judiciary reserves the right to rescind or cancel this JVA at any time without notice.

**THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.**

¹ The following organizations evaluate foreign educational credentials for employment and other purposes. All operate on a fee based on the extent of the education to be evaluated; applicants shall bear the cost of evaluation.

(a) Credentials Evaluation Service P.O. Box 24679 Los Angeles, CA 90024
(b) Education Equivalency Evaluation World Education Services P.O. Box 745 Old Chelsea Station New York, NY 10011
(c) Education Credential Evaluators, Inc. P.O. Box 17499 Milwaukee, WI 53217
(d) International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. 914 Pickett Lane Newark, DE 19711
(e) Foundation for International Services, Inc. P.O. Box 230278 Portland, OR 97223. While the Judiciary offer these addresses as information to applicants who request assistance in obtaining an evaluation of foreign education, these services are not preferred over others which may exist. While the Judiciary offer these addresses as information to applicants who request assistance in obtaining an evaluation of foreign education, these services are not preferred over others which may exist.

IN RESPONSE TO RECENT FLAG BURNING

AG: We are awaiting reports from DPS

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney General Edward Manibusan says that charges have yet to be filed against a man who burned the CNMI flag and posted it on social media as the OAG is still waiting for reports from the Department of Public Safety.

In an interview with Manibusan last week, he shared that he is awaiting reports from DPS before his office considers filing charges against Raymond Quitugua, the individual who posted a video on social media of him burning the CNMI flag last April 2.



Manibusan

"The Office of the Attorney General is currently not taking action while we are currently waiting for the reports on this from the Department of Public Safety," he said.

Manibusan explained that charges are filed based on probable cause and

legal statutes.

The CNMI Constitution, for example, considers the burning of the CNMI flag a crime punishable by a fine or even jail time. However, the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects the right of an individual to burn flags as a form of protest.

"We file charges based on

whether or not there's probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed. We look at the statute, we look at the laws, and if we believe that there are defenses and we think that those defenses will prevail, we may consider filing any charges," he said.

"I think the issue would be 'if I have the First Amendment right to protest.' You've seen news articles and you've seen press reports and people all over the world burning flags. So, was this a sign of protest? Is that something that we will consider in filing final charges? Yes, that's one of the

issues," Manibusan added.

According to a previous article on *Saipan Tribune*, Quitugua said he believes the true CNMI flag was the initial design presented back in the 1970s that featured a latte stone with a star in the front of it on a field of blue.

He claims this flag accurately represents the indigenous people of the CNMI which he believes is the Chamorro community (not including the Carolinian community).

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

NMC grad plays major role in CNMI's banking industry

Among the many Northern Marianas College graduates contributing toward our local workforce, there is one journey that stands out as a shining example of resilience and dedication.

Tania David, the branch manager for the Bank of Guam's Garapan branch in Saipan, graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Business Management from the NMC School of Business in May 2023.

Having been equipped with banking knowledge and experience by working with the Bank of Guam for 21 years, David decided to return to NMC in 2018, jumping straight back into her bachelor's program. However, the effects of Super Typhoon Yutu delayed day-to-



NMC

Tania David oversees a staff of 20 employees as the branch manager for the Bank of Guam's Garapan branch on Saipan.

day activities, making it difficult to keep up with work, home, and school life.

"When I finally found some stable ground and kept a slow and steady pace each semester, the world got hit

with the pandemic and all the shutdowns, restrictions, and closures that came along with it," David said.

However, during the time of drawbacks and uncertainty, David found an advantage

in the online sessions enacted due to COVID-19 pandemic. She said that this allowed her to save time and attend classes from work and home.

"NMC was a great fit for me because it allowed me to achieve a higher education in business management, which aligned and enhanced my career, the banking industry, while staying home on my island, and saving me money from travel, costs of living elsewhere, and tuition," David said.

Additionally, the support of her manager and husband pushed her to complete her degree program.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

NORITA

From page 1

has been selected as the first CNMI representative in the upcoming U.S. DHS-FEMA National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer program, a great achievement for the CNMI as a whole.

"The CNMI Department of Fire & Emergency Services has achieved a significant milestone with the acceptance of assistant chief Cody T. Norita into the U.S. DHS-FEMA National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program, the first individual from the CNMI to be accepted into the prestigious program. Acceptance into this program is highly competitive amongst executive fire officers, with a pool limited to only 500 applicants nationwide, underscoring the significance of Norita's selection from the CNMI," said DFEMS spokesperson Rob Mojica.

Mojica explains that Norita's selection not only marks a personal milestone, but also represents a step forward for the CNMI's fire services.

"This intensive two-year program is rigorous, engag-

ing participants in a comprehensive study of leadership, management, and executive development while building the knowledge and skills necessary to develop innovative public policy solutions that enhance community safety and resilience and preparing them to address the complex challenges of modern emergency services," Mojica said.

The department is extremely proud and ecstatic to have one of its own represent the CNMI in this prestigious program.

Norita possesses a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire and Emergency Management, numerous fire certifications, and is a veteran naval firefighter in the U.S. Navy.

Norita says he eagerly anticipates the contributions he will make upon completion of the program, to further enhance the capabilities of the CNMI's fire and emergency services.

Norita said he would also like to thank his wife and children for their love and support; and commissioner Juan Pua, and deputy commissioner Steve Mesngon for their leadership and commitment to building capacity within the department.

DOL Enforcement Office temporarily closed from April 30 to May 2

The Department of Labor Enforcement Office is committed to ensuring the integrity and accuracy of labor data, especially in crucial sectors such as agriculture. To further this goal, the DOL Enforcement office will be temporarily

closing its doors from April 30 to May 2, 2024, to conduct agricultural surveys on Rota for the FLC grant.

While the office is closed, DOL Enforcement encourages individuals to submit any necessary documents or

inquiries to the Administrative Services office located in Building 1356. Additionally, individuals may call (670) 664-3196 or email info@dol.gov.mp.

The DOL Enforcement Office remains committed to

serving the public and ensuring the well-being of workers across all sectors. DOL Enforcement apologizes for any inconvenience caused by this temporary closure and thank you for your understanding and cooperation. (PR)

GCA

From page 1

DPL Secretary Teresita A. Santos recused from participating on any new negotiations and signing of the GCA lease since her brother is one of the board of directors of the GCA Church.

The lease is for the operation of GCA's kindergarten to 12 grade including early childcare services, after-school care service, and other school and church-related activities.

According to the agreement, the lease term is from April 27, 2024 to April 27, 2064. The fee simple value of premises is \$2.3 million which is applicable during the first five-year term.

The annual base rent during initial five-year period is \$34,672. The security deposit is \$52,008.

Additional obligations of lessee GCA is security deposit of 5% of the total cost of construction plan or by phases; or submission of performance or completion bond.

On public benefit obligations, GCA shall provide \$500 annually in financial contribution for educational scholarship for eligible Northern Marianas Descent students.

DPL special advisor Sablan said, on behalf of the Palacios-Apatang administration, DPL Secretary Santos, DPL family, and NMDs, he expressed appreciation to the

GCA for being a valued lessee for the past 40 years.

"At the same token, we want to embrace and welcome GCA again for the next 55 years as it enters another commitment to execute a new lease with DPL," Sablan said.

He said he is very sure that GCA's commitment to this new lease signifies its intent to continue investing on its institution's quality education to the community and most especially to the NMDs, who are the owners of the land.

Sablan thanked Rev. Rodgers, GCA board members, and staff for witnessing the historic signing of the land lease "as DPL and Grace Christian Academy join hands together

on a journey towards prosperous partnership for the next five and a half decades."

Rodgers said they are very excited about completing 40 years and "40 plus 15 Hallelujah."

"I am 50 years old right now. I don't know if I'll see 105 for the completion of 55 years. But I know that this gives us the space as a ministry and as a school to continue to grow," he said.

Rodgers attributed the signing of the new lease to the "group of wonderful people at GCA."

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

HOUSING

From page 1

encouraging the USDA to provide NMHC a second chance.

The delegate said the parties have now come to agreement.

Officials from the USDA Rural Development led by

Rural Housing administrator Joaquin Altoro and Rural Housing Service chief of staff Yvonne Hsu and team state director Chris Kanazawa, area director Joseph Diego, and Community programs specialist Tony Barcinas joined Sablan and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and NMHC board

officials and staff during the MOU signing.

The amended MOU replaces any prior MOUs executed by RHS and NMHC as far back as March 26, 1979. The purpose is to establish and define set roles for RHS and MHC with respect to the making, guaranteeing, and servicing of RHS

single-family housing loans and grants to owners and lessees of CNMI lands.

Under the MOU, RHS is prepared to make such loans and grants, while NMHC seeks to facilitate and support the provision of USDA housing assistance programs in the CNMI.

CUC

From page 1

as executive director.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry, Terlaje said yesterday that the board meeting on Thursday needed to adjourn early due to legal counsel had to leave early for a prior commitment.

She said the board approved a three-month extension of her contract as administration chief until they get a chance to officially evaluate her and discuss her renewal properly and without rush.

Terlaje said her contract as CUC administration chief is expiring today, Monday.

She said her position as acting executive director is under the same terms of that contract as administration chief.

Terlaje said she accepted the three-month extension with

the understanding that the board will be doing her evaluation soon.

The acting executive director said the board members have been very supportive of her leadership and give management good feedback in dealing with the many challenges and plans to develop and grow the utilities agency.

"I have faith and no reason to believe they do not have to renew my contract. I'll be patient with their final decision," Terlaje said.

Terlaje has been designated as acting executive director since April 2023 when board chair Janice Tenorio sacked acting executive director Dr. Dallas M. Peavey Jr.

Last February, the board approved the hiring of professional engineer Christopher Theisen, who is from California, as CUC's executive director. He has yet to arrive on Saipan.

WELCOME BACK TO THE *Marianas' skies* HONGKONG AIRLINES



By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hong Kong Airlines returns

After departing the CNMI four years ago due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Hong Kong Airlines' long-awaited return is finally here with its inaugural flight arriving early this morning.

To give a clearer picture of why the return of Hong Kong Airlines is significant for the CNMI, *Saipan Tribune* reached out Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion who explained how the return of Hong Kong Airlines is a step in the right direction in terms of recovery.

"In FY 2019 prior to the pandemic, visitors from China comprised 45% of all visitors to the Marianas; arrivals from South Korea comprised 46%. While Korea has recovered almost entirely, the absence of China as a source market has

been a huge gap in our economic recovery efforts. Even the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands has reported that last month their average occupancy among the Top 12 hotels in the Marianas was only 34%. It's a starting point, and there is still a lot of ground to gain ahead," he said.

Concepcion notes that the return of Hong Kong Airlines has been discussed for quite some time, dating back last year when he returned to MVA.

"One of the first things we did when I returned to the MVA last year was to reach out to our network of airlines, tour operators, travel agents, hoteliers, and other travel industry partners. One of them that we approached was Hong Kong Airlines. Our connection was through a tourism partner in Hong Kong whom

we worked with when he was with TripAdvisor. We continue to maintain this relationship as he is now working for Klook, an online travel platform based in Hong Kong. We were then connected to Ms. Yolanda Yao who is with the Hong Kong Airlines Planning and Commercial Division. We requested a meeting with Ms. Yao to discuss the possibility of resuming direct air service to the Marianas. After a series of meetings, Hong Kong Airlines informed us that they are evaluating the route and holding discussions with other tourism partners. Throughout the process we continued to reach out to them and engage in discussions that will assist in making sure that the flight took place," he said.

"These first flights are a result of a close collaboration of Hong Kong Airlines, our

travel agency partners, Commonwealth Ports Authority, U.S. Customs & Border Protection, CNMI Customs, the MVA, ground handlers, and many other partners. The business community—including our hotels—is eager for the return of our Chinese visitors, as well. We anticipate that these careful arrangements will bring a smooth reboot of the China market for the Marianas," Concepcion added.

Concepcion explains that the relaunch of direct flights from Hong Kong gives the CNMI convenient access to visitors from Hong Kong, and to a lesser extent, the neighboring Pearl River Delta.

"Hong Kong Airlines also has an extensive network throughout Asia that we can tap into. Prior to the pandemic, we were receiving over 15 flights a week from Hong

Kong and China," he said.

However, Concepcion adds, the CNMI will only be able to tap into these other markets in China (starting the journey to full recovery) if the United States Department of Transportation approves the CNMI's longstanding request for an exemption to the current China-U.S. flight cap.

"What is really needed is approval of Annex 6 to allow a complete waiver of flight restrictions between the USA and China. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CNMI had always been exempt from this as we were seen as having unique economic circumstances that required separate treatment in terms of our tourism industry needs. We also need the new EVS-TAP program to be implemented without delay, which will allow for pre-screening of

passengers from China prior to departure, but still without requiring a B1/B2 visa. It will still be visa-free access for Chinese passport holders with EVS-TAP. With that, we are confident the market can fully recover," he said.

Ultimately, Concepcion says with the relaunch of Hong Kong Airlines, the potential to see an increase in tourists is big.

"We know that Chinese are travelling internationally. They are travelling to the U.S., Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, and even destinations as far as Dubai and Saudi Arabia. In the U.S., their top destinations are New York City, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Boston, and Washington, D.C. We know there is demand for the Marianas, specifically, as well as we have been receiving hundreds of Chinese for several months now making the not-so-convenient transit

See **AIRLINES** on Page 7

WELCOME BACK



HONGKONG AIRLINES

Celebrating your highly anticipated comeback to the

MARIANAS



FROM THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF



Century Insurance Co., Ltd.
A TanHoldings Company

JP Center Ground Floor, Beach Road, Garapan Office
Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. • www.centuryinsurancegroup.net
Guam +1(671) 648-0609 Saipan +1(670) 234-0609





HONGKONG AIRLINES

Cheers to your long-awaited return to Saipan!

From the management and staff of

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



Congratulations



HONGKONG AIRLINES

on your return to the Northern Marianas Islands



CROWNE PLAZA®

AN IHG® HOTEL
RESORT SAIPAN

AIRLINES

From page 5

through Seoul to get here. The potential is big," he said.

Marketing the CNMI

When asked if there are any specific initiatives or marketing campaigns planned to maximize the impact of the relaunched flights, Concepcion said at this time, the MVA is participating in promotions under the Visit USA campaign of the U.S. Embassy in China and the upcoming ITE Hong Kong.

"Meanwhile, our private sector partners are also undertaking their own marketing and promotions to woo Chinese visitors to the destination and to their businesses. This is the beginning of what we anticipate to be a slow but steady increase in visitor arrivals from China," he said.

As for MVA's plan on competing with other destinations who are also trying to recover in terms of tourism, Concepcion said MVA continues to remain conservative and strategic in the application of our limited funding.

"As evidenced by arrivals, this strategy has proven successful in Korea, which also has strong outbound travel from the country. Japan is a different situation, as there is

still some cautiousness among the public against foreign travel, a continued favor for domestic travel, and especially, the devaluation of the yen. With direct flights now available from Hong Kong, we will be attending the Hong Kong International Travel Expo in June to enhance awareness and meet with travel trade partners and consumers in rebooting this market. We are also working with the two key companies in Hong Kong in promoting the destination as they have an agreement with Hong Kong Airlines to sell a certain number of seats per flight. These initiatives include bringing in Key Opinion Leaders, or KOLs, bringing in travel agency Fam groups, and doing targeted social media promotions," he said.

Community engagement

With tourists coming in, Concepcion says enriching the visitor experience is important and MVA does this by partnering with local agencies to promote community/cultural events in the CNMI.

"In addition to the MVA's annual signature events like the Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival during May Tourism Month, we continue to support events organized by other offices and

organizations that enhance the visitor experience. These include the revival of traditional maritime traditions by 500 Sails, May's San Jose Fiesta on Tinian, the recent Flame Tree Arts Festival, and others. The MVA supports the organization of events like these, and we strongly encourage organizers to share their events with visitors and the local community on our free, public online calendar—The Marianas Calendar—at www.mymarianas.com. Upcoming MVA signature events include Hell of The Marianas in December, Rota Marathon in January 2025, Tinian Pika Festival in February 2025, and the Saipan Marathon in March 2025," he said.

In addition, Concepcion said MVA collaborates with all MVA members and key government agencies including the Commonwealth Ports Authority, U.S. Customs & Border Protection, CNMI Customs, and other key agencies to support the return of Hong Kong Airlines flights.

"All MVA members, CNMI government agencies, and community as a whole have an interest in seeing the recovery of the Hong Kong and China market as everyone stands to benefit from the anticipated increase in economic activities that come with an upswing in

tourist arrivals," he said.

Enhancements

Concepcion also adds that with the expected influx in tourists, MVA heavily supports infrastructure enhancement initiatives as it also contributes to the overall visitor experience in the CNMI.

"We 100% support the initiatives being undertaken by various responsible agencies to enhance our infrastructure, public spaces, and tourist sites. We are promoting the new, affordable and easily accessible bus routes by CNMI Transit by COTA. Our visitors have been requesting this for decades. We are sharing with our travel partners off-shore about the Beach Road improvement project being undertaken by the Department of Public Works, which will provide bike lanes and more sidewalks for both residents and visitors. Of course, we are also excited about the Garapan Revitalization Project. Even the reopening of the public bathroom by Department of Lands and Natural Resources at Outer Cove Marina is a step in the right direction. The MVA will also continue to work through our Destination Enhancement division, and we have several major projects planned for Marpi. We are grateful for everyone who is making tourism their business. There is a lot

more to do," he said.

Future plans

Although the return of Hong Kong Airlines is a step in the right direction, Concepcion said MVA will continue to look for new source markets regionally and worldwide.

"What most people don't realize is that it takes a lot of time and a lot of money to develop new source markets. Hong Kong is just one small piece of what's out there. Stay tuned. We need the support of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, Department of Commerce and other stakeholders in ensuring the CNMI is a good place to do business," he said.

Concepcion also said that MVA is in discussion with agency partners to explore the future improvements and enhancements to the islands of Rota and Tinian to accommodate more tourists.

"Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands all have extraordinary offerings ready at hand for both niche markets such as adventure seekers, as well as the everyday average travelers. All that's needed is more convenient, affordable, and safe inter-island transportation, plus modern and mid to high-end hotel accommodations. This is something for further discussion and ex-

ploration by the appropriate parties, locally and federally, in order to grow these municipal economies. Broadly for the Marianas, if we are looking for longer-stay visitors, we need to upgrade our destination: accommodations, service, authentic cultural experiences, historic and scenic sites. This is what attracts higher spending, longer staying travelers. Everyone has a part to play in elevating the Marianas experience. This is not the MVA's job alone. One thing we already excel at is friendliness, hospitality, the personal connection. This is one thing today's traveler is prioritizing, and fortunately, it is also a big part of our island culture. In a sense, the warmth of our people and the opportunity to connect with our community is what they want. We encourage every resident to offer this to the visitors they meet," he said.

Overall, Concepcion said MVA's long term objective is to ensure a stable and profitable tourism industry that allows private business to flourish, jobs to be created for our people, and taxes to be collected by our government so essential services are maintained and enhanced.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Congratulations

Hong Kong Airlines on your return to Saipan!

We're excited to welcome your passengers and crew back home in the Marianas.

-Your Triple J Family





HONGKONG AIRLINES
香港航空



The Marianas
| Saipan | Tinian | Rota |





Indulging on Dining Flavors: Discover Saipan's Culinary Delights

By CHRISTINE HAYAG
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Saipan is a melting pot of ethnicities and cultures and so is the food. Join *Saipan Tribune* as it samples the mix of culinary delights.

Savory Bistro Café

Located in the heart of Chalan Pale Arnold Savory Bistro Café has been pleasing taste buds since August 2020. Specializing in Filipino cuisine, this cozy restaurant offers more than just a meal. It offers an experience steeped in warmth and flavor.

Owner Jennifer Elayda's love for cooking sparked the idea for Savory Bistro Café, which has a family background deeply rooted in the restaurant industry in the Philippines.

What makes Savory Bistro Café unique is not only its affordable food but also the dedication of its staff. Each dish is prepared with a commitment to quality, ensuring every



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Savory Bistro Café.

customer leaves satisfied and eager to return. Every visit to Savory Bistro Café is unforgettable, from the inviting atmosphere to the meals served. Customers consistently praise their time there.

The team's impact goes beyond the restaurant walls, and they often receive recog-

nition in the community for their contributions. Engaging actively within the community, Savory Bistro Café participates in fundraising events and supports community initiatives as a way of giving back to those who support them.

Looking forward, Savory Bistro Café aims to expand

by introducing unique recipes to its menu. If you're keen to discover what Savory has in store, make sure to visit their Facebook page for enticing deals like Unlimited Chicken on Thursdays and Saturdays, Mix and Match specials from Monday to Wednesday, and a lavish buf-

fet every Friday and Sunday.

A must-try dish is the hearty bulalo and the flavorful pork sisig. For details or reservations, contact Savory Bistro Café at (670) 233 6143. They are open daily from 10am to 2pm and 5pm to 11pm.

Marvz Kitchen, located on the second floor of Saipan Vegas, Chalan Lau Lau, embodies the aspirations of chef Marvin Manahan and his family. They present an ala carte menu reflecting Manahan's experience in the hospitality industry.

Despite being in operation

Marvz Kitchen

See DISCOVER on Page 9



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Savory Bistro Café's bulalo.



MARVZ Kitchen

(670) 322-0350

Open Monday - Sunday • 10:00 am - 9:00 pm

1 Choice
\$7.50

2 Choice
\$9.50

Ala Carte is also Available










@ MARVZ Kitchen

We accept private party reservations.

Located on the second floor of Saipan Vegas along Beach Road in Chalan Kiya



Savory Bistro Café

Book your birthdays, debuts, christenings, wedding receptions, holiday gatherings, etc. with us!

WE CATER FOR ALL KINDS OF EVENTS!

Special LUNCH BUFFETS

Every Friday and Saturday!

OPEN DAILY

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

5:00 PM - 11:00 PM




Contact us at

(670) 233-6143

(670) 783-0214

Visit our pages

Savory Bistro Café **@savorysaipan**

CUSTOMERS REVIEWS

By **NHORLEEN BITCO-LILLES**
Special to Saipan Tribune



“CK Smoke House’s mixed pancit has been my absolute favorite! The flavor is just worth craving for, and the portion size is spot on for sharing with 2-3 people. The perfect pair with the Mixed pancit is their fried chicken. Their chicken is always cooked to perfection. Crispy on the outside, tender, and juicy on the inside, it is like the ultimate comfort food combo. Whenever I visit the restaurant, this duo is my go-to meal without a doubt.”

—**Zowie Cruz**
Miss Marianas Earth 2023

“Savory Bistro Café is a true gem, living up to its name in every bite. Let me tell you about my go-to dish: the grilled pork chop. Unlike others that tend to be tough and dry, theirs is a masterpiece of tenderness, juiciness, and impeccable seasoning. It’s a real treat every time.

Now, let’s talk about their tokwat baboy. It’s a dish close to my heart, and Savory nails it perfectly. Instead of just throwing on some basic seasoning, they bring the flavors of home right to



your plate. It’s like a delicious trip back to the Philippines with every bite.

And don’t get me started on their cheese sticks. These aren’t your average cheese stick—they’re elevated with ham and a subtle hint of pepper that takes them to a whole new level of deliciousness. Seriously, they should consider adding these to the menu as an official appetizer—they’re that good.

Lastly, I have to give a shoutout to their exceptional service. The staff at Savory Bistro Café are top-notch—always attentive, welcoming, and ready to make your dining experience unforgettable. Trust me, you won’t find better customer service anywhere else. Savory Bistro Café is a must-visit for anyone craving outstanding food and exceptional hospitality.”

—**Aldrich Delos Santos**
IT



“My hubby is very particular when it comes to food and his palate is not easily satisfied. If he says something is really good, it is really good. When I brought home the tapa from Marvz Kitchen, he loved it and exclaimed how good it was—and even finished the whole thing himself. It is a must try.



“Definitely the best burrito that I know of can be found at The Hut. I would get the carne asada burrito, and whether I’m in the mood for the Liberation or the California style, I know I’m in for a real treat. I usually pack it with guacamole, sour cream, and pico de gallo—it’s like a fiesta in your mouth. The staff are friendly and caring, they make sure you’re more than satisfied.”

—**Ray Zapanta**
TSL Foundation



“New Dae Jang Kum totally hit the spot when I was craving some real-deal Korean food. I went for their spicy pork and kimchi, and boy, was it a flavor explosion! The pork was perfectly seasoned, with just the right amount of kick, and the kimchi added a fresh, tangy twist. Plus, the staff were super friendly and made me feel right at home. If you’re in the mood for authentic Korean eats, this place is a winner!

—**Christine Anne Noble**
Fina Sisu

DISCOVER

From page 8

for just three months, their dedication to quality shines through in every dish they serve.

The combination of Marvin’s passion and wife Nylin’s organizational skills serves as the foundation of their business’s success. Customer satisfaction is important at Marvz Kitchen, focusing on feedback and creating interactions with



Marvz Kitchen.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marvz Kitchen's barbecue ribs.

customers to help improve their service.

By engaging with the com-

munity through events, they aim to expand their outreach in the days ahead. With a focus on adaptability and growth, Marvz Kitchen strives to improve its offerings and customer experience.

Guests are invited to savor their popular dishes such as barbecue ribs, cheeseburgers, lumpiang shanghai, and a variety of Filipino/American dishes.

Stay updated on Marvz Kitchen’s latest offerings by See **DISCOVER** on Page 10

Operation Hours
Monday – Thursday: 11am – 9pm
Friday – Saturday: 11am – 11pm
Sunday: CLOSED

TRY OUR WEDNESDAY SPECIAL
BIRRIA BOMBS

\$13

LIMITED SPECIAL

BEST SELLER

WE WILL ALSO BE ON THE TASTE OF THE MARIANAS
ORDER NOW **(670) 233-7111**
Located on Beach Road, Rita’s Building, Garapan.

CK Smokehouse...where affordable, tastier food and customer satisfactions are served!

CK SMOKE HOUSE & SALAD
OPENS EVERYDAY
6:30am – 2:00pm (Breakfast and Lunch) • 5:00pm – 9:00pm (Dinner)

Fresh Locally Produced

Bestseller

Extended Hours available for Dine In and Take Out at Chicken and Beer until 12 Midnight

We accept private party reservations!

Follow us on:
 @CKSmokehouse and salad
 @CK_Smokehouse

CK Smokehouse
670-234-3331
 Chicken and Beer at
670-234-3330

Konsolacion St. Chalan Kanoa, adjacent to Moonlight Department Store and at the right side of the US Postal Office

DISCOVER

From page 9

following their Facebook page for a culinary experience unlike any other on Saipan. For more information or reservations, call (670) 322-03502, email marvzkitchenspn@gmail.com, or message them on Facebook: Marvz Kitchen.

CK Smokehouse & Salad

CK Smokehouse & Salad has been a culinary staple on Saipan for over three years, offering a unique blend of locally sourced meats and authentic Korean and Filipino dishes.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CK Smokehouse & Salad's fried chicken.

As a part of Marianas Meat Harvesting Corp.'s initiatives, CK Smokehouse shines brightly as a symbol of freshness and excellence in the dining landscape.

Inspired by MMHC's

mission to support farmers and provide the community with homegrown meats, CK Smokehouse came into existence.

Strategically positioned in Chalan Kanoa and dedicated to promoting food production, the restaurant swiftly became a go-to destination for those seeking alternatives to frozen meats.

What sets CK Smokehouse apart is not just its dedication to freshness, but also its pocket-friendly dishes. With a selection of dishes, including their sizzling tilapia and crispy pata, CK Smokehouse ensures that quality and affordability are well balanced.



CK Smokehouse & Salad.

DAE JANG KUM

Korean Restaurant 大長今

Daily Lunch

Special is available

Lunch Box Set \$10.00 - \$12.00

WE HAVE:
PARTY TRAYS,
CATERING, AND MORE!

**ALA CARTE MENU IS
ALSO AVAILABLE**

**WE SERVE THAI FOOD
EVERYDAY LUNCHTIME**

Order Now!

(670) 234-9595

We accept private party reservations. Located at Susupe Across World Resort

Customer satisfaction takes the stage at CK Smokehouse. The inviting atmosphere paired with excellent service guarantees that each visit is an experience. From patrons' acclaim such as being featured on a Korean bloggers platform, CK Smokehouse prides itself on fostering positive relationships with customers.

CK Smokehouse is also closely involved with the community by obtaining its livestock from ranchers and providing special deals for senior citizens. By taking part in activities such as events and local markets, it strengthens its ties with the community. With plans to broaden its menu options and establish a new location, CK Smokehouse is committed to serving the community with tasty dishes and a friendly environment. For more information or reservations, call (670-233-6143). You can also message them through Facebook.

The Hut

The Hut is all about crafting mouthwatering tacos and burritos that bring a taste of Mexico right into the heart of Saipan. Each dish is made with love and the freshest ingredients, designed to bring a smile to your taste buds. From the moment you step through their doors, you'll be greeted with a warm smile and the kind of hospitality that makes you feel right at home.

According to its owner, Weston Guerrero, "Our team is dedicated to providing gen-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Hut's birria bomb.

uine service, ensuring every visit is a pleasant and memorable experience. It's been a joy to serve this community, and seeing your familiar faces each week makes every burrito rolled and taco served worth it."

"As we continue to grow, we'd love your help in spreading the word. If you know someone who hasn't tried our tacos and burritos yet, bring them along on your next visit or pass along our information through social media," Guerrero adds.

The Hut aims to extend its service beyond serving great food. They also aspire to become a household name in the CNMI community, actively supporting local events, charities, and initiatives that help the community thrive. The Hut also aims to inspire other entrepreneurs by representing sustainable and community-focused business practices. Additionally, they are dedicated to enhancing the CNMI's



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Hut in Garapan.

global reputation as a vibrant and welcoming tourist destination, showcasing the best of what our islands have to offer, and by extending their hours means there's more time to savor their authentic Mexi-Cali cuisine, perfect for any time of day.

"We're excited to be featured on *Saipan Tribune* and we're even more thrilled to invite you to The Hut at our new location in Rita's building along Beach Road, Garapan. Si yuus ma'ase. Ghilisow, salamat po, gracias, thank you for being such a fantastic part of our journey. Here's to many more years of delicious moments together!" said Guerrero

New Dae Jang Kum

New Dae Jang Kum is a culinary gem specializing in an enticing array of authentic Thai, Korean, Filipino, and American dishes; the brainchild of Arlene Calvo, whose profound love for healthy cuisine inspired her to share her passion with others.

What sets New Dae Jang



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
New Dae Jang Kum's spicy pork.

Kum apart is its dedication to serving up genuine flavors, crafted with love and passion at its core. "Our customers really love our spicy pork," said Calvo.

With standout dishes like their crowd-favorite spicy pork, customers are treated to exceptional food and an unforgettable dining experience.

When asked how they ensure a positive experience for their customers, Calvo replied, "We serve the best and bring out only the best."

Located in Susupe, just a stone's throw from the Saipan World Resort, New Dae Jang Kum stands out as a great place to eat, now under fresh management since March 26 of this year.

While community involvement is on the horizon, the restaurant's primary focus remains on capturing the hearts of locals through its food and top-notch service. New Dae Jang Kum is also offering buffet options per reservation, catering services, and party trays, ensuring something to satisfy every palate. To top it off, the restaurant also provides gift certificates, making them perfect presents to share.

New Dae Jang Kum is open from Monday to Saturday, 10am-2pm and 5pm to 10pm, and Sunday, 7am to 10pm. For reservations or inquiries, contact New Dae Jang Kum at (670) 234-9595 or (670) 285-5641.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

New Dae Jang Kum.

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 85Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Mark Rabago** EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The Supreme Court cannot allow homelessness to be a crime

If you are homeless and have nowhere to go—neither a temporary shelter bed nor a permanent home—can you be fined or, worse, jailed for sleeping on a sidewalk? Or is that cruel and unusual punishment?

That's the question that the Supreme Court wrestled with Monday when it heard oral arguments in the case of *Grants Pass v. Johnson* regarding the Oregon city's ordinance allowing police to fine or jail homeless people for sleeping outside. A federal district court ruled that the law violated the 8th Amendment prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment and blocked it from being enforced. The 9th Circuit upheld the ruling. The city petitioned the Supreme Court to weigh in and it agreed.

Most of the justices seemed troubled by the idea of fining and jailing homeless people as a way to deal with homelessness. How could they not be disturbed by that? Grants Pass even criminalizes using a blanket while sleeping outdoors. Liberal or conservative, under what value system does jailing people for trying to stay warm constitute a crime?

"And for a homeless person who has no place to go, sleeping in public is kind of like breathing in public," said Justice Elena Kagan.

Theane Evangelis, an L.A. attorney who is representing Grants Pass, argued that the inability to enforce the law has "tied cities' hands" and "fueled the spread of encampments."

Under the Grants Pass' ordinance, fines for sleeping outside started at \$295 and increased from there for people caught being homeless again, eventually leading to arrest and jail for 30 days. According to the 2019 homeless count, there were about 600 homeless people and one shelter in the city; the Gospel Rescue Mission has about 130 beds and requires attendance at a Christian chapel service twice daily and working, if physically able, for the mission for no pay.

This is not Los Angeles, where the city and county offer services and a variety of temporary housing options with the goal of helping people move into permanent housing. The goal in Grants Pass, as discussed in a public city council meeting in 2013, was to figure out how to make life uncomfortable enough for homeless people that they would leave. The ordinance was never about solving homelessness. (Officials of Josephine County, where Grants Pass is located, turned down an invitation to apply for a grant from a \$200-million pool of state funding for housing, shelter and services.)

"Where do we put them if every city, every village, every town lacks compassion ... and passes a law identical to this?" asked Justice Sonia Sotomayor. "Where are they supposed to sleep? Are they supposed to kill themselves, not sleeping?"

See SUPREME on Page 13



Ukraine just got \$61 billion. Here's what it should buy

Now that the House of Representatives, acting in an unusually bipartisan way, has finally passed a \$61-billion aid package for Ukraine, the big question is what the Ukrainians should spend it on.

This aid comes not a minute too soon. Russia has been gathering momentum both on the ground and in the air, threatening a summer offensive that could crack the Ukrainians' lines and threaten their major cities. These include Kharkiv—the major city nearest to the Russian border—and possibly Kyiv itself, forcing the government of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy out of the capital.

Central Intelligence Agency Director William Burns, a former ambassador to Russia, understands Russian President Vladimir Putin well. Burns said last week that unless the new tranche of U.S. aid was forthcoming, Ukraine was in danger of losing the war within the year. But he also said, "with the boost that would come from military assistance, both practically and psychologically, the Ukrainians are entirely capable of holding their own through 2024 and puncture Putin's arrogant view that time is on his side."

So, with the \$61 billion of "forgivable loans" set to be approved this week by the Senate and White House, what are Ukraine's most crucial needs? How fast can the pipeline move more weapons and ammunition into the hands of Kyiv's brave, overachieving military?

The good news is that both the U.S. and European defense establishments have been primed for this moment over the past months. My successor as supreme allied commander at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, General Chris Cavoli, has said that it is largely a matter of turning on the spigot once President Joe Biden signs the aid bill. Cavoli's vast command—eight full battlegroups in Eastern Europe alone—is poised to swing fully into action to deliver assistance.

Fortunately, nearly 90% of money for Ukraine will be spent on purchases from the U.S. defense industrial base. This means that procurement and logistics should run relatively smoothly down well-trodden paths. Storehouses in Europe—run by U.S. European Command and our NATO partners in Germany, Poland and other sites in Eastern Europe—are already full of weapons, particularly artillery shells, that could move quickly into Ukrainian hands.

At the top of the list will be replenishing Ukraine's air defenses. This means more surface-to-air missiles, ranging from the smaller systems like the National Advanced Surface-to-Air System (NASAMS) and the MIM-23 HAWK systems, to the big Patriot batteries that proved so effective in defending Israel during the Iranian air attack earlier this month. The Patriots and even larger Terminal High Altitude Defense systems (THAAD) can defend against Russian cruise and ballistic missiles over broader areas. These systems will protect not only civilians and critical infrastructure like the electric grid, but will be useful against Russian aircraft.

Next on the shopping list will be artillery ammunition. All along the hundreds of miles of battlefield separating the combatants, daily artillery duels are being fought. Russia is getting the better of the Ukrainians through sheer volume of fire. As in World War I, defensive trenches can help hold off the waves of cannon-fodder foot soldiers the Russians use (including many conscripts and convicts), but their artillery can pin down and ultimately overcome the dug-

By **JAMES STAVRIDIS**
Bloomberg Opinion

James Stavridis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist, a retired U.S. Navy admiral, former supreme allied commander of NATO, and dean emeritus of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.



in Ukrainians. The most pressing need for the Ukrainian artillery is millions of traditional 155-millimeter howitzer rounds, alongside ammo for smaller-caliber guns.

Ukraine will also want to use the funds to help finally get the 45 or so F-16 fighters previously promised by the West into the skies. These versatile combat aircraft are capable of solid air-to-air defense against Russian fighters and bombers; pinpoint air-to-ground attacks against Russian troops in the field and in their trenches; and electronic warfare and jamming that can deceive and defeat Russian cruise missiles. Ukrainian pilots have been training for months to fly them.

Another high priority will be long-range surface-to-surface missiles. The U.S. Army's High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) is mobile and lethal. It can use precise targeting data at ranges of 50-plus miles, and has been deployed with great effect on the Ukrainian battlefield. Even better is the Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS), a ballistic weapon with ranges of 150-plus miles. Both can strike behind Russian front lines and destroy logistics centers and command-and-control hubs, notably in Crimea.

The war in Ukraine has also become the first lengthy conflict in which drones are playing a major role. Unmanned aerial vehicles have been crucial for the Ukrainians in stopping Russian advances. These drones rely on exquisite command and control—much of it provided over the internet and connected to constellations of satellites. This may be less glamorous than ballistic missiles flying toward Crimea and fighters swooping down on Russian forces, but it is just as critical. The U.S. loan package could allow the Ukrainians to field a stronger offensive drone force with commensurate cybersecurity abilities.

Given that this \$61 billion is under 7% of the massive U.S. defense budget, it represents excellent return on investment for U.S. taxpayers. Nearly all of the money will be spent back in the U.S., providing jobs and helping the economy, and it will help decimate the military capability of an aggressive dictator without putting a single U.S. service member at risk. These funds, along with the billions of dollars the European allies have already provided and pledged (in total military and economic assistance, the Europeans have given far more aid to Ukraine than the U.S.), give Ukraine a fighting chance.

In 1941, UK Prime Minister Winston Churchill said to the U.S., "Give us the tools and we will finish the job," referring to defeating Nazi Germany. Today, another rapacious foe is attacking a sovereign European state and seeking to undermine Western values globally. Putin must be stopped, and with the right set of tools provided by the U.S. and Europe together, Ukraine too can do the job.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Proof that bipartisanship is possible

For months, supporters of the embattled Ukrainians have contended there was a bipartisan House majority that would back continued U.S. military support if only its Republican leaders would allow a vote.

Their contention was proven correct last weekend when the House passed a \$95-billion package of support for Ukraine and other frontline democracies with the support of a majority of Democrats and a significant minority of Republicans.

The long-sought House action came after Republican Speaker Mike Johnson yielded to months of “education” and political pressure from the Biden administration and crafted a package that surmounted political divisions. It combined aid for Israel, Taiwan and Ukraine with a GOP plan to force the sale of TikTok and use seized Russian assets for Ukraine’s reconstruction.

But both the result and the way it was achieved showed it was possible to break the partisan gridlock that has made acting so difficult if lawmakers are willing to do something about self-imposed procedural barriers that are often greater impediments to action than substantive disagreements.

For example, many analysts believe that the Senate had the votes to pass the immigration and border control package crafted by a bipartisan group headed by Oklahoma Republican Sen. James Lankford, though it was stricter than most Democrats preferred and less strict than Republicans wanted.

But then, presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump pressured the Senate GOP to prevent the measure from being considered. It was even possible that, had the Senate acted, a bipartisan majority could have been mustered for it in this Republican House -- if its leaders allowed a vote.

To underscore the point, it should be noted that, despite the bitter partisan divisions in this Congress, its most significant achievements have stemmed from bipartisan agreements that enabled its leaders to override minority factions in both parties -- the bill aiding Ukraine and the earlier measures to extend the debt ceiling and fund the government.

Bipartisan agreements were also possible for the main achievements of the previous Congress, in which Democrats enjoyed slim majorities in both houses: the bills to rebuild the nation’s crumbling infrastructure, restore U.S. leadership in chips production and deal with climate change.

In all of these cases, the keys to success were surmounting the built-in barriers that make governing so difficult and permitting votes by the full House and Senate.

In the Senate, increased partisanship has undermined a landmark reform adopted nearly a half century ago that was supposed to make it easier for the majority to prevent a minority from blocking action.

In 1975, a bipartisan majority lowered from two-thirds to 60 the number of senators needed to limit debate. But since 1979, except for a brief period in 2009-10, no majority party has had as many as 60 votes. That’s made it easy for the minority party to obstruct whatever its members didn’t like -- including preventing any debate at all.

In the case of the immigration proposal, Trump was more interested in using it as a political cudgel against Joe Biden in the presidential campaign than in actually doing something -- and his fellow Republicans acquiesced. Few doubt it would have passed if they had allowed a vote.

Passing important bills might become easier if the Senate agreed to exempt motions to consider them from the filibuster rule, while leaving it in place on the legislation itself. Having some degree of debate would give supporters of important bills an opportunity to increase public pressure on a recalcitrant minority, while preserving its right of extended debate.

In the House, one of the main institutional barriers has been the GOP’s policy--initiated by former Speaker Dennis Hastert--to only consider measures supported by a “majority of the majority.”

That kept GOP Speaker John Boehner from bringing up a 2013 Senate-passed bipartisan immigration compromise that could probably have passed the House. It’s a barrier the current speaker, Johnson, opted several times to ignore, permit-

By **CARL P. LEUBSDORF**

The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is a columnist for the Dallas Morning News.



ting the House to fund the government and pass last weekend’s aid bill.

The House would be more governable if Republicans formally scrapped their “majority of the majority” requirement, which allows a partisan minority to prevent a bipartisan majority from acting.

One reason the previous House could effectively govern was that the Democratic majority had no such requirement. Still, former Speaker Nancy Pelosi always made sure she had the votes before bringing legislation before the full House.

Unfortunately, Johnson’s initiative has opened the way for its far-right GOP faction to seek a possible vote next week on removing him as speaker, like they did with his predecessor, Kevin McCarthy. It would hardly be surprising if, after he allowed the Ukraine aid vote, some Democrats might help save him.

Last weekend’s votes may be the last major congressional action before the November elections. Although Congress will still have to fund the government for the year starting Oct. 1, it’s likely to delay any major decisions until after the election -- and possibly next year.

But next year, these institutional issues will again be relevant, given the likelihood that whichever party wins the presidency will likely face close margins in both houses, regardless of which party has formal control.

Removing institutional barriers to consideration of important legislation by the full House and Senate would make it more likely that actions such as last weekend’s votes in the House can become the rule, rather than the exception.

SUPREME

From page 12

“You end up in jail for 30 days, then you get out, I mean, you’re not going to be any better off than you were before in finding a bed if there aren’t ... beds available in the jurisdiction, unless you’re removed from the jurisdiction or you decide to leave somehow,” said Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh.

Evangelis insisted there are services available for homeless people in Grants Pass.

“So you’re saying there are services available, there’s treatment available, so people would ultimately move off the street?” asked Justice Amy Coney Barrett. “Are you saying that if your law is enforced, there is a way for everyone to be cared for?”

“No,” said Evangelis. “I’m saying that’s a policy question that is quite difficult, but these laws are an important part of the puzzle. They’re not the only solution.”

In fact, they are no part of the solution, not for Grants Pass nor any city. And if the court allows Grants Pass to enforce the ordinance, it will allow any city tired of doing the heavy lifting of providing housing and services to resume fining or jailing homeless people in an effort--whether they say it out loud like Grants Pass officials did--to, once again, shoo homeless people from one block to another, one neighborhood to another, one city to another.

Kelsi Corkran, the attorney for the homeless individuals in the Grants Pass lawsuit, argued that the 9th Circuit decision left plenty of room for municipalities to manage street homelessness. They can restrict when and where homeless people can sleep or camp. They can ban tents, clear encamp-

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

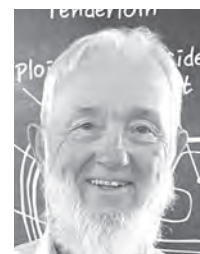
April showers bring May flowers

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY ‘PEPE BATBON’ CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka “Pepe Batbon” Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.



To close out National Poetry Month a quote from Wallace Stevens (1879-1955), an American modernist poet and lawyer:

“The poet refreshes life so that we share, For a moment, the first idea. ...It satisfies belief in an immaculate beginning And sends us, winged by an unconscious will, To an immaculate end.”

The following are song lyrics from Lebanese poet Zaki Nassif (1918-2004).

“Pick me the most beautiful rose, my butterfly, a rose fit for the poetry of her blonde hair. Pick it in the colour of alabaster and fiery gold, Of brown barren earth and dust and soiled snow, From the dreaming green valleys where laurels grow strong, Had I words to describe it, I would not have asked you. Pick one that’s sweet and lovelier than a child’s smile. May the lilies discover in its heart the poetry of old May the sparrows translate its words into song, And the new dawn sing a chorus in its honour.”

Hear it sung in its original Lebanese language on a CD titled *Orient-Occident II, Hommage à la Syrie*. Hesperion XXI, Jordi Savall. Alia Vox AVSA 9900.

Finally a short poem by Chinese poet Hsieh Ling-yün. “During the last decade of his life, living as a recluse high in the mountains of southeast China, Hsieh Ling-yün (385-433 C.E.) initiated a tradition of “rivers and mountains” (shan-shui) poetry that stretches across millennia in China and beyond, a tradition that represents the earliest and most extensive literary engagement with wilderness in human history. These poems were extremely popular in Hsieh’s own time and established him as one of the most innovative and influential poets in the history of Chinese poetry, as well as a precursor of Ch’an (Zen) Buddhism. The quote is from a translator of Hsieh’s poems, David Hinton. Happy reading!

#33

“As for my homes perched north and south, inaccessible except across water: gaze deep into wind and cloud and you know this realm utterly.”

ments, and “enforce a sleeping ban against homeless people who decline shelter,” said Corkran. We don’t think homeless people reluctant to go into a shelter should be fined. Those fees just accumulate and leave them with a debt they can’t pay.

We hope the Supreme Court justices grasp the profound difficulty of truly solving homelessness and that they don’t let cities fall back on criminalizing people who are so desperately poor they have no homes.

©2024 Los Angeles Times.

In Celebration of Her New Life

† Juana Cabrera Sablan Muna

Born on June 15, 1945

Called to her eternal rest on April 24, 2024 at the age of 78

"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18

In her new life, she now joins:

Parents: † Tomas Palacios Sablan & † Isabel Mendiola Cabrera Sablan

Mother/ Father in Law: † Sebastian Palacios Muna & † Rosa Sablan Tudela Muna (Nan Ocha')

Husband: † Daniel Tudela Muna

She is survived by her:

Children: Daniel S. Muna Jr./ Teresita, Elisa M. Borja/ Antonio (Abigail Stephanie, Rosalyn Remedio, Joanne Isabel, Kimberly Thundra May, & Antonio Jr), **Thomas S. Muna** (Thomas Sebastian/Michelle, Isabel Rosa M. Ulloa/ Eric, Tammie April, Christy Ann Joanna, Angela Branda/ Mayiah, Camille Heloann & Vincent Thomas), **Joy Tarla M. Taisague**/ Benjamin (Re'anica Jezniel & Tobias Daniel), & **Sebastian S. Muna**

Reared Children: Dennis L. Muna, Thomas Sebastian C. Muna, Brandon Jerard B. Indalecio Jr., & Laurina D. Sebaklim

Great Grandchildren: Matniel Danton, Danyana Sunshyne, Aiden Weischigh, Calvin Jay, Eli'analyn Faith, Jessundra Danielle, Darencio James, Kessemay Leeundra, Jesse Freddy, Thiam Takeo, Kazimier Lorenzo, Cecilia Rose, Eric Julian, & Edward James

Brothers/ Sisters & Spouses: † Soledad S./ † Francisco Basa & family, † Vicente Sablan/ † Maria M. & family, † Gregorio Sablan/ † Victoria M. & family, † Faustina S./ † Fernando Benavente & family, † Ana S./ † Henry Indalecio & family, † Jesus Sablan/ Rita DLG. & family, † Natividad C. Sablan/ Raphael Demapan & family, † Matilde S./ † Martin Taisacan & family, † Manuel Sablan/ † Consolacion C. & family, † Rita S./ Rafael Mettao & family, † Maria S./ † Juan Ada & family, † Tomas Sablan/ † Francisca M. & family, † Maria DLR/ Alfredo Gonzalez & family, † Isabel S./ † Melchor Maratita & family, † Pedro Sablan/ Ignacia M. & family, † Margarita S./ † Jose Castro & family, † Bernadita S./ † Isidro Cabrera & family, † Joaquin Sablan/ † Grace C. & family

Brothers/ Sisters InLaw & Spouses: † Juana M./ † Jose A. Camacho & family/ † Catalina M./ † Gregorio Borja & family, † Ann M./ Peter Taitano & family, † Esteban T. Muna/ † Maria S. & family, † Miguel T. Muna/ Milagro L. & family, † Lorenzo D. DLGuerrero/ † Isabel C. & family

She is additionally survived by numerous nieces, nephews & friends.


Mass for the repose soul of † Juana is offered daily at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 am and at the San Vicente Church as follows: Mondays at 6pm, Tuesdays at 6am, Wednesdays at 6pm, Thursdays at 6am, Fridays at 6am, Saturdays at 5:30pm and Sundays at 6am & 9am.

Funeral services and last respects for our beloved † Juana will be held on Thursday, May 2, 2024, at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning at 8:30am. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral followed by the Rite of Committal at the Santuario Pax behind Santa Soledad Church in Kagman where she will be laid to peaceful rest.

For all your love, prayers, thoughts, and kindness, Thank You and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

The Children and families of
† Daniel Tudela Muna and † Juana Cabrera Sablan Muna





COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after May 15, 2024, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Honolulu Field Office, for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383), as amended, to undertake the following projects and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Construction of generator house and ongoing maintenance of generator	Construction of a generator house for installation of and ongoing maintenance of a generator for Guma' Esperansa	Recipient location: Dandan, Saipan Original Location for project: Confidential	\$50,000.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Central Office in Garapan, Saipan and may be examined or copied during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI or Austerity Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the projects may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan. All comments received by **May 15, 2024, 4:30 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD Honolulu Field Office that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Arnold I. Palacios consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to the **U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development, Honolulu Field Office, 1003 Bishop Street, Suite 2100, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813** and CPDHonolulu@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Arnold I. Palacios
Governor, CNMI

Business

Full Moon Restaurant gives a taste of pocha



By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Full Moon Restaurant directly facing Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

Full Moon Restaurant is introducing an emerging trend in Korea to Saipan—a unique spot to get soju, hang out with friends, and have a wide variety of good quality Korean food and snacks.

Literally covered wagon in Korean, pocha—short for the word pojangmacha—is a late-night drink and food experience and a hybrid between a pub, a restaurant, and street food vendor, according to restaurant manager and part-owner Jihong Digiaco.

Full Moon opened in February of this year and is situated right in the heart of Garapan, directly across the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan and just before the entrance to the former Paseo de Marianas.

Serving the classic snacks like kimbap, tteokbokki, ramen, corn cheese, sesame tofu, rice balls, etc. at \$10 and under and bulgogi, chueotang, and more at \$13 and under, the hub is perfect for night out or a get-together with friends.

And if you're craving for a little more than a snack, restaurant-style comfort food like gambas, chapaguri, grilled eel range are available and ranges from \$15 to \$40 and one of their current top sellers is the beef shank soup.

Digiaco shared that they have also started selling some popular local snack and comfort food like chicken kelaguen, chicken and pork adobo, and sizzling plates of pork belly or squid, and with drinking as a focal component to the pocha theme, Full Moon keeps its variety of beers from local favorites to the Korean sojus.

Digiaco said although the food is great and in line



Inside the Full Moon Restaurant in Garapan.

with the pocha theme, the restaurant is all about the vibe and creating that getaway space with good food, good drinks, and a good time with friends in a non-traditional Korean restaurant setting.

"I would say on island there are a lot of traditional Korean restaurants, but this is a little different because it's not really the traditional Korean food. But then, I don't want to say it's completely street food vibes either."

In essence, it's restaurant-style food and street bar feel in a sit-down indoor venue rolled into one.

"I'm trying to follow the pocha trend. A pub is limited with food and they mostly serve finger foods. But we would like to be known as a place to go out to drink, have fun, but have really good food as well."

Digiaco is passionate about cooking, but never thought about opening a restaurant until after she and her husband relocated to Saipan from South Korea.

"It happened so quickly. He got presented with the job op-



Some of the pocha-style delectables awaiting you at the Full Moon Restaurant in Garapan.

portunity and everything happened so quickly after that."

In just a few months, the restaurant has already garnered several positive feedback from both Korean residents and visitors and has brought up its rating to a 5.0 on Google.

Full Moon in Garapan is open from 5pm to 12am, Monday-Saturday. For more information, call (670) 233-1588.

Life & Style

Combs files motion to dismiss some claims in sexual assault lawsuit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lawyers for Sean “Diddy” Combs pushed back against a woman’s lawsuit that accused him of sexual assault, filing a motion on Friday to dismiss some claims that were not under law when the alleged incident occurred.

The motion filed in a New York court claims Combs cannot be sued because certain laws didn’t exist when Joi Dickerson-Neal made the allegations against him in 1991.

The music mogul’s lawyers want certain statutes from Dickerson-Neal’s claims such as revenge porn and human trafficking to be dismissed with prejudice.

In a filing last year, she said Combs “intentionally drugged” her, then brought her home and sexually assaulted her after a date in Harlem when she was a 19-year-old college student.

Without her knowledge, Combs videotaped the assault and later shared it with several



AP
Music mogul and entrepreneur Sean “Diddy” Combs arrives at the Billboard Music Awards, May 15, 2022, in Las Vegas.

friends in the music industry, the lawsuit alleges. He denied the allegations, accusing her of seeking to exploit the New York law that temporarily ex-

tended the statute of limitations.

While Friday’s motion seeks to dismiss the case on legal grounds, Diddy’s attorneys and the mogul “vehemently deny” what they called “numerous false, offensive, and salacious accusations” in the lawsuit.

Dickerson-Neal’s claim

came nearly three decades after his alleged misconduct, and the New York State Revenge Porn Law was not codified until 2019, Combs’ lawyers said. His attorneys also pointed out a few others including the New York Services for Victims of Human Trafficking Law, which came into effect in 2007.

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly, as Dickerson-Neal has done.

Last month, Combs’ properties in Los Angeles and Miami were raided by federal authorities in a sex trafficking investigation. The criminal investiga-

tion is a major escalation in the scrutiny of Combs, who has been the defendant in several recent sexual abuse lawsuits.

In a lawsuit Combs settled the day after it was filed in November, his former protegee and girlfriend, the R&B singer Cassie, sued him alleging years of sexual abuse, including rape. The lawsuit said he forced her to have sex with male prostitutes while he filmed them.

In February, a music producer filed a lawsuit alleging Combs coerced him to solicit prostitutes and pressured him to have sex with them.

Another of Combs’ accusers was a woman who said he raped her two decades ago when she was 17.

News anchor Poppy Harlow announces departure from CNN

ATLANTA (AP)—Anchor Poppy Harlow is leaving CNN, according to the network.

Harlow, who joined CNN in 2008 and most recently co-hosted “CNN This Morning,” announced her parting from the cable news giant in an email to colleagues.

She called her time at CNN “a gift.”

“I have been inspired by you and learned so much from you—who are (and will remain) dear friends,” Harlow wrote. “This place has shaped me as a leader, taught me resilience, shown me the value of perspective and how to make hard decisions.”

At CNN, Harlow reported on the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings and the 2015 Paris terror attacks, among other stories.

“I got to experience what

makes this country great,” Harlow wrote in her email. “I sat with people in their best moments and in their hardest. They taught me about the human condition and what binds us.”

Earlier this year, CNN announced changes to the time slot for “CNN This Morning” and moved it to Washington.

CNN Chief Executive Mark Thompson lauded Harlow’s time at the network.

“Poppy is a unique talent who combines formidable reporting and interviewing prowess with a human touch that audiences have always responded to,” Thompson said.

Harlow previously worked as an anchor for the Forbes Video Network and was an anchor and reporter for NY1 News, according to her bio on CNN’s website.

Weinstein hospitalized after return to NY from upstate prison

NEW YORK (AP)—Harvey Weinstein’s lawyer said Saturday that the onetime movie mogul has been hospitalized for a battery of tests after his return to New York City following an appeals court ruling nullifying his 2020 rape conviction.

Attorney Arthur Aidala said Weinstein was moved to Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan after his arrival on Friday to city jails.

“They examined him and sent him to Bellevue. It seems like he needs a lot of help, physically. He’s got a lot of problems. He’s getting all kinds of tests. He’s somewhat of a train wreck

health wise,” Aidala said.

A message left with the hospital was not immediately returned Saturday.

Frank Dwyer, a spokesperson with the New York City Department of Correction, said only that Weinstein remains in custody at Bellevue. Thomas Mailey, a spokesperson for the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, said Weinstein was turned over to the city’s Department of Correction pursuant to the appeals ruling. Weinstein had been housed at the Mohawk Correctional Facility, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) northwest of Albany.



AP
Harvey Weinstein arrives at a Manhattan courthouse as jury deliberations continue in his rape trial in New York, on Feb. 24, 2020.

A few siblings bear brunt of caring for aging father

DEAR ABBY: I am one of the younger children of eight. One sister is deceased, which leaves seven of us to care for our father, who has had dementia since our mother passed. The four oldest are retired. The youngest three still work.

I believe we all should take responsibility for our father. Two of the older siblings are my sisters. I live on the other side of the country. I still work full time, but I take a leave for two months every year to care for Dad. The other 10 months of the year, my sisters take care of him.

I think this should be a “child thing” instead of a “girl thing.” If everyone did their share, no one would be overwhelmed with Dad’s care. How do I get my brothers to step up? The two who are retired refuse to do anything. One is still working, but he’s a teacher and off all summer. My younger brother helps when he can, but he and his wife still work full time. They can’t afford to take time off like I do.

My older sisters aren’t in great health, and I’m afraid one or both will die because they have taken on too much responsibility. What advice can you offer?

DIVIDING IT UP IN WASHINGTON

DEAR DIVIDING IT: There are other ways to help with caregiving than in person—one is with money. The family members who ARE stepping up should insist that the broth-

ers who can’t be bothered to do their part contribute to hiring someone to care for Dad if they are unable or unwilling to step up. If they refuse, and you have to go that route, an attorney might be able to convince them to do the right thing. Shakespeare’s King Lear was right when he said, “How sharper than a serpent’s tooth it is to have a thankless child.”

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: While you occasionally print letters related to breast cancer, I don’t recall seeing any related to male breast cancer. I am a male breast cancer survivor. I was first diagnosed in 2008, with a recurrence in 2018, and I have been amazed by the number of people I have spoken to who don’t realize the fact it exists. Granted, breast cancer affects far fewer men than women, but it is serious, nonetheless.

Every year there is an entire month that is dedicated to Breast Cancer Awareness, yet most of the information is aimed toward women. This means we remind 50% of those who can get this disease that they need to be vigilant while ignoring the other 50%. Like most conditions, if you have a family history of breast cancer, it is important to be mindful. Abby, do you agree we need to get the word out?

SURVIVOR IN OHIO

DEAR SURVIVOR: I certainly do. Male breast cancer is rare, but it does happen. (It has been mentioned in my column

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



before.) Some famous men who revealed they’d had breast cancer are television host Montel Williams, Peter Criss of the rock group Kiss, Richard Roundtree, the original “Shaft,” and Sen. Edward Brooke (who lived to the age of 95). Thank you to all of them for speaking out. Any man who knows there is a history of breast cancer in the family should mention this to his physician and take their cue from their doctor.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

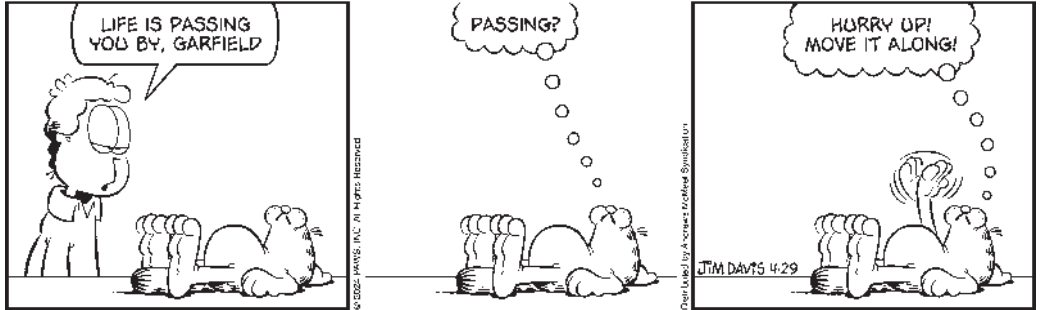
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



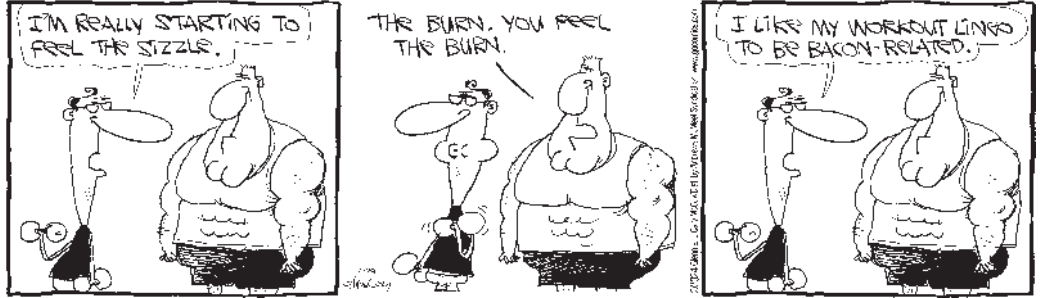
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Cookie holder
- 4 Seditious
- 9 Ruin the veneer
- 12 Pub brew
- 13 Lubricate
- 14 Glacial
- 15 Very small amount of a drug
- 17 Browns, on scoreboards
- 18 Toss in
- 19 Zodiac sign
- 21 Bull or bear
- 24 Guesser's words
- 25 Brit. record label
- 26 Cotillion attendee
- 28 Shade of black
- 31 Diplomacy
- 33 Plopped down
- 35 Gift tag word
- 36 Places in the heart

DOWN

- 1 Bread spread
- 2 Frazier foe
- 3 Fun and games
- 4 Gizmo
- 5 Brain-teasers
- 6 "Evil Woman" gp.
- 7 Enthusiasm
- 8 Asparagus
- 9 Beer made in limited quantities
- 10 Rights org. since 1920
- 11 Deli loaves
- 16 Ewe's mate
- 20 "Wild Blue Yonder" mil. group
- 21 Self-referential
- 22 Latin 101 word
- 23 Pet identifier
- 27 Rail
- 29 Classic Kinks song
- 30 Mideast ruler
- 32 "Kon-"
- 34 Like some candles
- 37 Friend of Porthos
- 39 Slobbers
- 42 "Get —!" ("Stop interfering!")
- 44 PC key
- 45 Autumn
- 46 Europe's neighbor
- 50 Middling grade
- 51 Hooter
- 52 Salty expanse
- 53 Tex. — cuisine

Solution time: 21 mins.

Last Friday's Answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13						14	
15			16						17	
			18					19	20	
21	22	23					24			
25			26		27		28		29	30
31		32		33		34		35		
36			37		38		39		40	
		41		42		43		44		
45	46					47				
48			49		50			51	52	53
54			55					56		
57			58					59		

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andre Agassi, 54; Uma Thurman, 54; Michelle Pfeiffer, 66; Jerry Seinfeld, 70.

Happy Birthday: Share your knowledge and start conversations. Expand your mind, circle of friends and lifestyle. Decide what's best for you and indulge yourself in playful action that brings joy to you and those you love. Make each day count, and you'll gain ground and dismiss past regrets that hold you back. Learn from your mistakes and keep moving. Put emotions on the back burner and your energy into making a difference. Your numbers are 9, 17, 23, 26, 34, 36, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make your dialogue suit your audience. Too much information or forceful action will discourage someone you need from participating. Your actions will determine how much help you receive. Kindness and understanding will encourage others to join your cause. Compromising will help you reach your goal. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't put pressure on yourself when your energy is best reserved for what truly matters. Discipline and passion will motivate you to stand up for your beliefs and make a difference, but don't jeopardize your physical well-being. An unexpected change will play in your favor. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Confusion is apparent. Ask questions, take notes and leave nothing to chance. Take care of important details, and refuse to let anyone lead you astray. Refrain from offering information freely. Set boundaries, be smart and don't take physical risks. Say less and do more. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Invest time and energy into something that matters to you. Choose to give whatever job you pursue a unique spin. Separating yourself from the crowd will lead to unexpected opportunities and a connection to someone with something unique to contribute. Personal gain is in the stars. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take a moment to plan your actions. Rely on your intelligence to guide you in the right direction. Don't expect others to take the same path as you, and don't feel obligated to deviate from your plans to accommodate those heading in a different direction. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a chance on life, love and happiness. Change what no longer works for you, and make room for new beginnings. Immerse yourself in pastimes that pump you up and encourage you to look, do and be your best. Put a plan in place and follow through. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Tunnel vision is necessary if you intend to get anything done. Keep your emotions contained and your mind on your pursuits. Look for investments that are custom fit for you. Don't spend on gimmicks. Choose quality over quantity. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Flesh out the possibilities and sign up for excursions, courses or events that offer insight and opportunities to meet interesting people. Discover how to use your skills and attributes effectively. Accept a challenge, and pursue your goal with strength, courage and determination. Romance is favored. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't take what others say personally. Avoid emotional upset and maintain reason. Bad

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



information is apparent; fact-check before sharing details or agreeing to something that isn't concrete. Listen to your inner voice. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Design your space to maximize efficiency. A physical change will have a more significant impact than anything you say. Refuse to let your emotions get in your way. When you see a roadblock, look for a different route. It's how you navigate your way through life that counts. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Focus on taking care of business before someone challenges you or interferes. Living up to demands and promises is essential to maintaining your status quo. A financial gain is apparent if you are willing to go above and beyond the call of duty. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your enthusiasm will attract attention, and your discipline and diligence will encourage others to pitch in and help. A change you introduce will help speed up your race to reach your destination. ****

Birthday Baby: You are persuasive, emotional and innovative. You are forceful and persistent.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

4	9									
1	3	5	9	6	2					
8		7	1	4		3			2	
		4	6		9		8			
			2	7	1	4	5	6		
7			3			2				
				2						
6	2	8		1	7	9	3			
3	7		4							

Difficulty: ★

4/29

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

4	1	9	6	7	5	8	3	2
7	5	3	2	4	8	6	1	9
6	2	8	3	9	1	4	5	7
2	4	5	8	6	7	1	9	3
1	8	7	9	3	4	5	2	6
9	3	6	1	5	2	7	4	8
5	6	2	7	1	3	9	8	4
3	9	4	5	8	6	2	7	1
8	7	1	4	2	9	3	6	5

Difficulty: ★★

4/26

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HYUNDAI MOTOR CO.

Solution: 9 letters

E	E	Y	P	A	R	K	I	N	G	W	C	O	S	S
S	A	N	T	A	F	E	©	S	A	Q	I	N	O	I
A	P	E	G	E	L	R	®	A	R	P	D	K	U	N
E	S	I	L	I	F	I	®	K	U	O	T	O	A	A
L	Y	E	H	A	N	A	®	A	N	H	R	L	T	V
L	R	E	A	S	N	E	S	A	K	U	S	T	A	I
E	U	S	C	T	R	T	E	O	D	A	R	S	D	G
A	X	O	Y	N	T	E	R	R	A	E	T	T	I	A
T	U	L	E	E	A	E	L	A	C	U	M	I	R	T
H	L	A	P	S	A	N	T	A	C	R	U	Z	B	E
E	O	U	S	S	N	G	I	S	E	D	O	T	Y	S
R	O	N	P	S	F	E	O	F	N	D	R	A	H	T
C	K	A	E	U	Y	N	D	O	T	U	V	I	D	E
E	C	M	E	X	V	E	H	I	C	L	E	S	V	D
E	R	L	D	L	O	G	K	K	R	A	D	I	O	E

© 2021 Andrews McMeel Syndicate® www.wonderword.com 4/29

Accent, Aslan, Audio, Cars, Coupe, Dealerships, Designs, Drive, Elntra, Engineer, Finance, Fuel, Hybrid, IONIQ, Keys, Kona, Lease, Leather, Lock, Look, Luxury, Manual, Navigate, Nexa, Palisade, Parking, Radio, Ride, Road, Safety, Santa Cruz, Santa Fe, Seats, Seoul, Sonata, South Korea, Space, Speed, Sport, Tested, Trim, Truck, Trunk, Tucson, Vehicles, Warranty

Last Friday's Answer: Pennsylvania
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

LeBron scores 30; Lakers avoid 1st-round sweep vs. Nuggets



LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers finally cracked the Denver Nuggets' mastery of this rivalry and extended their playoff lives for at least another game.

To absolutely nobody's surprise, LeBron James led the way.

James scored 30 points, Anthony Davis added 25 points and 23 rebounds, and the Lakers avoided postseason elimination with a 119-108 victory over Denver in Game 4 of their first-round series Saturday night.

D'Angelo Russell and Austin Reaves scored 21 points apiece for the seventh-seeded Lakers, who snapped their 11-game losing streak against the defending NBA champions with their first win over the Nuggets since December 2022.

A series with clear patterns and rhythms finally changed in the Lakers' favor. For the fourth straight game, Los Angeles took a double-digit lead before the Nuggets rallied in the second half behind Nikola Jokic.

But for the first time in this series, the Lakers didn't wilt under the defending champions' pressure. The 39-year-old James scored 14 points in the fourth quarter on 6-of-8 shooting, again carrying the Lakers late in his 21st NBA season.

Game 5 is Monday night in Denver.

"We've given ourselves another lifeline, and it's a one-game series for us," James said. "Monday's game is the most important game of the season for us, and we understand that."

Denver swept Los Angeles out of the Western Conference finals last season, but the current Lakers responded to this 0-3 deficit with a performance more worthy of a team that rolled into the postseason with 12 wins in 15 games.

"We get another opportunity to go play one more game, and if we win, come back and play another one and keep moving from there," Reaves said. "Odds aren't stacked in our favor, but anytime we can keep ourselves floating above water and give ourselves an opportunity to do something special, we're up for the challenge."

Jokic had 33 points, 14 rebounds and 14 assists for his 18th career triple-double and second in this series, but the two-time MVP and his teammates couldn't reassert their usual late-game dominance over the Lakers.

The Lakers' 19-point lead with just over six minutes left dwindled to 113-106 on Jokic's three-point play with 1:25 to play, but Reaves hit a short jumper before adding four free throws in the final minute.

Denver ultimately couldn't overcome yet another slow offensive start in



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) shoots as Denver Nuggets forward Peyton Watson (8) and center Nikola Jokic defend during the first half in Game 4 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Saturday, April 27, 2024, in Los Angeles.

a series full of them.

"Of course we want to (start faster), but I learned in horse racing, it's not how you start, it's how you finish," Jokic said. "We didn't finish today really well, so hopefully we can do a better job. But yes, we want to be up and control the game, but it seems like that didn't happen to us."

Michael Porter Jr. had 27 points and 11 rebounds for Denver, and Jamal Murray scored 22 points while going 0 for 4 on 3-point attempts. Aaron Gordon had just seven points for the Nuggets after putting up 29 in Game 3 during the highest-scoring playoff game of his career—but offense wasn't the Nuggets' problem, according to coach Michael Malone.

"The paint (defense) was a joke," Malone said after his team allowed a whopping 72 points in the paint.

"Every huddle, I sounded like a broken record tonight," Malone added. "Every huddle was, 'Paint, paint, paint.' (In) Game 3, they had 70 and we found a way to win. Tonight, they had 72. That's an incredible number. ... I just didn't think we had the requisite physicality or urgency. This did not seem like a closeout game."

The second-seeded Nuggets also lost a closeout game in last season's first round while up 3-0 on Minnesota, but Denver won that series in five games and lost only three more times on the way to its first title.

While Jokic was prolific and James seized the spotlight late, Davis was outstanding for the fourth straight game. His 23 rebounds matched his career playoff high, and he even shared the Lakers' team lead with six assists.

"It's tough to get swept," Davis said. "Nobody wants

that feeling, especially going to the summer. You've got to live with that feeling for the rest of the summer. So we didn't really talk about it. We know what's at stake. Nobody wants that feeling in your mouth for the rest of the summer. The way we played tonight is the way we have to play the rest of the series."

The Lakers showed no quit in their dire circumstances in Game 4, pounding the ball inside for 44 points in the paint during the first half and taking their fourth halftime lead of the series.

The Lakers stretched their advantage to 15 points in the third quarter and kept building until the final minutes, when Jokic and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope sparked a Nuggets rally.

"They were really pushing the pace," Jokic said. "They had open layups. They were destroying us in the paint. We couldn't make a shot. They

couldn't make a shot either (at times), but it seems like that affected our defense a lot. That's a great team."

Reggie Jackson played nine minutes for Denver despite spraining his ankle in the second half of Game 3.

Caleb Williams, the Heisman Trophy-winning former USC quarterback and the No. 1 overall pick in this week-end's NFL draft by the Chicago Bears, watched the game from courtside.

MAGIC 112, CAVALIERS 89

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Franz Wagner had 34 points and 13 rebounds, and the Orlando Magic held the Cleveland Cavaliers scoreless for a second-half stretch of almost seven minutes Saturday in a 112-89 victory that tied the Eastern Conference first-round series at 2-2.

Wagner had 10 points in the

first five minutes of the third quarter, matching Cleveland's total for the entire period, when the Magic outscored them 37-10 and turned what had been a nine-point halftime deficit into their second straight romp.

Jonathan Isaac (14 points, including Orlando's only two 3-pointers of the first half) and Markelle Fultz (12 points, four rebounds) gave the Magic major help off the bench. Paolo Banchero, who had 35 points in Orlando's 121-83 win in Game 3 on Thursday night, finished with nine points and five assists.

Jarrett Allen had 21 points and nine rebounds for the Cavaliers. Donovan Mitchell had 18 points, all in the first half, and six assists.

THUNDER 106, PELICANS 85

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 24 points and Okla-

homa City beat New Orleans to take a 3-0 lead in their first-round playoff series.

Jalen Williams and Josh Giddey each scored 21 for the Thunder, who escaped Game 1 with a two-point victory before posting victory margins of 32 in Game 2 and 21 in Game 3.

Top-seeded Oklahoma City hit 17 of 36 (47.2%) from 3-point range and held a lead of 10 points or more throughout the second half, going up by as many as 24 in the fourth quarter.

The eighth-seeded Pelicans, who've been without star forward Zion Williamson during the series because of his hamstring injury, will try to avoid elimination at home in Game 4 on Monday night. But even if they do, history is not on their side. No team in NBA history has come back from a 3-0 series deficit.

CELTICS 104, HEAT 84

MIAMI (AP)—Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown each scored 22 points, and Boston soundly beat Miami to take a 2-1 lead in their Eastern Conference first-round playoff series.

Tatum added 10 rebounds and six assists for the Celtics, who led Game 3 wire-to-wire and reclaimed the home-court edge that they lost when Miami won Game 2 in Boston. Kristaps Porzingis had 18 points and Derrick White scored 16 for the Celtics, who used runs of 12-3, 11-0 and 20-8 in the first half to take full control.

Bam Adebayo scored 20 points for eighth-seeded Miami, which remains without starters Jimmy Butler and Terry Rozier because of injuries. Nikola Jovic and Tyler Herro each scored 15 for the Heat, who got 12 from Jaime Jaquez Jr.

Game 4 is Monday in Miami, where the Celtics are 9-2 in their last 11 games and 6-1 in their last seven playoff games.

Stephen Curry wins NBA's Clutch Player of the Year, adding to his trophy collection

Golden State's Stephen Curry led the league in clutch scoring this season, and now he's got another trophy to add to his collection.

Curry was announced Thursday night as the NBA's Clutch Player of the Year, adding that award to a resume that includes two MVPs, an All-Star Game MVP, an NBA Finals MVP, a Western Conference finals MVP and nine All-NBA selections.

The award is named for Jerry West, someone Curry knows well and someone who once was a consultant for the Warriors.

"When you see him in person you realize how much basketball matters to him, how competitive he is, how much he wants to win no matter what seat he's in," Curry said of West on the TNT tele-

cast where the award was announced. "And that rubbed off on our organization during that time. ... Any time Jerry West says something, you're going to listen."

Curry was one of three finalists, along with Chicago's DeMar DeRozan and Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander.

Curry led the league in clutch scoring—defined as points in the last 5 minutes of fourth quarters or in overtime, with the score differential in the game being five points or less—with 189, seven more than DeRozan. Gilgeous-Alexander had 112 points in those "clutch" moments, seventh-most in the league.

The voting was close, with Curry getting 45 first-place votes and finishing with 298 points. DeRozan got 34 first-

place votes and had 272 points in the balloting, with players earning five points for a first-place vote, three for second place and one for third place. Gilgeous-Alexander had 160 points.

Curry—a four-time champion—said he's been watching the playoffs, and thinking ahead to what Golden State needs to do before next season. The Warriors were eliminated from postseason consideration by losing in this year's play-in tournament.

"We're not that far off, even having tried to stay at this level and at this peak for so long," said Curry, who will play for the U.S. at the Paris Olympics this summer. "There's going to be some tweaks, we know. When you lose, you have to look yourself in the mirror and say 'What can we do to get

better, what holes can we fill.' Thankfully, we have some time to figure that out."

The award was first handed out last year, when Sacramento's De'Aaron Fox won the inaugural trophy—named for West, the league's original "Mr. Clutch"—with Miami's Jimmy Butler second and DeRozan third. Gilgeous-Alexander was seventh in the clutch voting last year and Curry tied for ninth.

There were 23 players up for the award this year, that list being put together by a balloting of coaches. From there, a panel of 99 reporters and broadcasters who cover the league made the final selection; their ballots were due last week before the start of the play-in tournament. NBA awards take only the regular season into consideration.

Dodgers win sixth straight, beat Blue Jays, 4-2



TORONTO
(AP)—Tyler Glasnow

pitched six solid innings for his first victory in 10 career starts against Toronto, Mookie Betts had three hits and an RBI, and the Los Angeles Dodgers extended their winning streak to a season-best six games with a 4-2 win over the Blue Jays on Saturday.

Shohei Ohtani, Freddie Freeman, and Chris Taylor each drove in a run as the Dodgers won their second straight series after losing their previous three.

Betts tripled and scored in the first inning, singled home a run in the fourth and singled in the ninth.

Glasnow (5-1) allowed one run and two hits. the 30-year-old right-hander walked three and struck out nine.

Toronto has lost a season-high five straight.

ORIOLES 7, ATHLETICS 0

BALTIMORE (AP)—Cole Irvin scattered four hits over seven innings, Adley Rutschman and Ryan Mountcastle homered on successive pitches and Baltimore blanked Oakland.

Gunnar Henderson also went deep for the AL East-leading Orioles, who emphatically bounced back from a 10-inning loss in the series opener Friday night.

Baltimore has now gone 100 straight regular-season series of at least two games without being swept. That's the fourth-longest streak in major league history, and 24 short of matching the record held by the 1942-44 St. Louis Cardinals.

Irvin (2-1) retired the first nine batters he faced, did not allow a runner past first base and yielded only four singles — none in the same inning. The lefty struck out five and walked none in his longest outing since 2022, when he pitched for the A's.

NATIONALS 11, MARLINS 4

MIAMI (AP)—Jesse Winker hit a grand slam in the fifth inning, one of three Washington home runs, as they beat Miami.

Keibert Ruiz and Nick Senzel also homered for the Nationals, who won their second straight game after getting swept in a three-game series against the Dodgers.

Mitchell Parker tossed four solid innings and gave up one run on six hits and struck out two with two walks. Jacob Barnes (1-0) and former Marlins Dylan Floro and Matt Barnes combined for four scoreless innings of relief before the Marlins came to life against Tanner Rainey in the ninth.

Rainey surrendered a one-out triple to Vidal Brúján, who scored on Christian



Los Angeles Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani (17) hits a single during the first inning of a baseball game against the Blue Jays in Toronto, Saturday, April 27, 2024.

Bethancourt's single. Pinch hitter Otto Lopez hit a solo shot to make it 11-4 before Rainey retired Bryan De La Cruz and Nick Gordon to end the game.

REDS 8, RANGERS 4

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Hard-throwing Reds right-hander Hunter Greene held Texas to one hit over seven scoreless innings and Jonathan India homered while driving in four runs on a four-hit day as Cincinnati beat the reigning World Series champions.

Greene (1-2) struck out six and walked one while throwing 63 of his 98 pitches for strikes.

Brent Suter relieved him with a perfect eighth before allowing six hits in the ninth, including back-to-back homers by rookie Davis Wendzel and Corey Seager. Alexis Díaz came on to get the last two outs for his sixth save in seven chances.

India already had a pair of RBI singles before his two-run homer, his first long ball of the season going the opposite way to right in the seventh. That doubled his season RBI total from four to eight, put the Reds up 5-0 and chased Texas starter Michael Lorenzen (2-1).

RED SOX 17, CUBS 0

BOSTON (AP)—Ceddanne Rafaela homered and drove in seven runs, and Tyler O'Neill also went deep as Boston routed Chicago.

The Red Sox established single-game season bests at home with runs and 21 hits. Boston, which lost eight of its first 11 games at Fenway Park this season, snapped a two-game skid and won for the fifth time in eight games overall.

The 23-year-old Rafaela, playing shortstop and batting ninth, went 4 for 4. Masataka Yoshida made his first start since April 20 and went 4 for 5. Bobby Dalbec, who entered the game batting .093, had two hits, three RBIs—including a run-scoring hit in a six-run fifth

inning—and scored twice.

Six Red Sox players finished with at least two hits.

CARDINALS 7, METS 4

NEW YORK (AP)—Sonny Gray extended his terrific start with St. Louis, Paul Goldschmidt hit an early two-run double and the Cardinals beat New York for their first three-game win streak this season.

With the bases loaded in the ninth inning, Ryan Helsley retired Francisco Lindor on a popup for the final out. Lindor struck out his previous four times up.

Nolan Arenado and rookie Masyn Winn each had an RBI single during a four-run first against struggling Mets newcomer Adrian Houser. Nolan Gorman added an RBI double in the third.

Pete Alonso hit his 200th home run for the Mets, becoming the fourth-fastest player in major league history to reach the milestone behind Ryan Howard, Aaron Judge and Ralph Kiner, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Gray (3-1) gave up one earned run and four hits over six innings. He struck out nine and has a 1.16 ERA in four starts for the Cardinals after beginning the season on the injured list with a right hamstring strain.

TIGERS 6, ROYALS 5

DETROIT (AP)—Matt Vierling hit a three-run homer to highlight Detroit's five-run seventh inning as they beat Kansas City, ending their four-game winning streak.

Trailing 3-1, Detroit rallied against Chris Stratton (2-2) in the seventh. After Jake Rogers walked, Riley Greene and Mark Canha singled, driving in Rogers.

Wenceel Perez flew out to the wall in right, allowing Greene to take third, and Kerry Carpenter tied the game with a base hit. After Spencer Torkelson popped out, Vierling lined Stratton's 1-2

sinker over the left-field fence to put the Tigers up 6-3.

The Royals scored twice in the ninth off Tigers closer Jason Foley, but Vinnie Pasquatino flew out to deep center to end the game.

ASTROS 12, ROCKIES 4

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Yordan Alvarez hit two home runs, Kyle Tucker added a solo shot and Houston beat Colorado in the MLB World Tour: Mexico City Series to snap a five-game losing streak.

Alvarez hit a two-run homer to center field and Tucker followed with a shot to left field and the Astros took a 4-2 lead in the third. Alvarez hit his seventh home run of the season in the top of the ninth inning.

Alvarez went 3 for 5 with three RBIs and two runs scored and Yainer Diaz had three hits and scored three runs.

Ronel Blanco (3-0) allowed two hits and five runs in 5 2/3 innings. He struck out eight and walked two.

The Rockies' Cal Quantrill (0-3) allowed six hits and six earned runs in five innings.

WHITE SOX 8, RAYS 7, 10 INNINGS

CHICAGO (AP)—Andrew Benintendi hit a two-run home run in the 10th inning for his second homer of the game and the season, giving the Chicago White Sox an 8-7 victory over Tampa Bay.

Benintendi had three hits and six RBIs to help Chicago won its second straight and for just the fifth time this season. Chicago's 5-22 start is its worst ever in 27 games. Baltimore started 3-24 in 1988.

Benintendi won it by smacking the first pitch he saw from Phil Maton (0-2) deep over the right-center wall.

Automatic runner Curtis Mead scored from third on Deivi Garcia's (1-2) wild pitch in the dirt in the top of the 10th to

put Tampa Bay ahead 7-6.

YANKEES 15, BREWERS 3

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Carlos Rodón pitched two-hit, one-run ball through six innings and the New York Yankees hit four home runs in a 15-3 rout of Milwaukee.

Alex Verdugo had a three-run homer in the first inning. Aaron Judge and Anthony Rizzo added two-run shots in the sixth that put New York up 11-1. It was Judge's fifth homer of the season and Rizzo's fourth.

Giancarlo Stanton hit a three-run homer, his sixth, in the ninth off infielder Owen Weaver, who pitched the final two innings.

Rodón (2-1) allowed a solo homer in the first to Rhys Hoskins and a leadoff double in the sixth inning to Joey Ortiz. The 31-year-old lefty struck out eight and walked one. Luke Weaver tossed two scoreless innings. Milwaukee got two runs in the ninth off catcher Jose Trevino, who threw 11 of his 18 pitches for strikes.

GUARDIANS 4, BRAVES 2, 11 INNINGS

ATLANTA (AP)—Josh Naylor and Ramon Laureano had RBIs in the 11th inning and Cleveland beat Atlanta in a game featuring the teams with the two best records in the majors.

Scott Barlow (1-2) escaped a bases loaded, one-out jam in the 10th inning, retiring Chadwick Tromp and Jarred Kelenic, to earn the win. Nick Sandlin pitched a perfect 11th to record his first save of the season.

Naylor was 2-for-4 with an RBI and Steven Kwan was 3-for-5.

PHILLIES 5, PADRES 1

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Ranger Suárez's scoreless streak ended at 32 innings but he was otherwise brilliant through eight innings and Alec Bohm homered

and drove in four runs for Philadelphia, who beat San Diego to win the weekend series.

Suárez's scoreless streak, the longest in the majors this season and of his career, ended when he allowed Eguy Rosario's two-out home run in the eighth inning. Suárez (5-0) allowed just three hits and struck out eight with no walks to win his fifth straight start.

Suárez threw 96 pitches. Jeff Hoffman struck out the side in the ninth.

The Padres have been punchless in the first two games of this series after blowing a 9-4 lead at Colorado on Thursday and losing 10-9. They've lost three straight for the second time in a span of 10 games.

PIRATES 4, GIANTS 3, 10 INNINGS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Bryan Reynolds and Ke'Bryan Hayes hit back-to-back homers in the 10th inning to help Pittsburgh outlast San Francisco.

Reynolds led off with a two-run homer for a 3-1 lead, and Hayes followed with another shot to left off reliever Taylor Rogers (0-1). Jorge Soler answered with a two-run homer in the bottom of the inning, but David Bednar wrapped it up for his fifth save.

Hunter Stratton (1-0) got the final two outs in the ninth for his first major league victory.

MARINERS 3, DIAMONDBACKS 1

SEATTLE (AP) — George Kirby struck out a career-high 12 batters in seven scoreless innings, Ty France hit a two-run homer and Seattle beat Arizona.

Kirby (3-2) gave up two hits, recorded eight of his first nine outs via strikeout and retired his final 14 batters. He ran into his only bit of trouble in the third, giving up a one-out double to Blaze Alexander and a walk to Jake McCarthy before he struck out Lourdes Gurriel Jr. and Ketel Marte.

The AL West-leading Mariners have won three straight and nine of 11.

TWINS 16, ANGELS 5

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Carlos Santana hit a home run in his third consecutive game and drove in four runs as Minnesota scored 10 times over the first four innings to extend their winning streak to six with a victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

Max Kepler and Ryan Jeffers also hit home runs and Edouard Julien had three hits and three RBIs as the Twins improved to 7-1 following a five-game losing streak that included a three-game sweep by the Baltimore Orioles.

Twins starter Chris Paddack (2-1) wobbled a bit by giving up four runs on eight hits and a walk but went five innings.

Aden 3rd in Olympic trials, clinches spot on wrestling nat'l team

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI son and wrestler Aden Attao's hard work paid off on the mat as he grappled his way to third place in the Olympic trials and solidified his spot on the U.S. senior national team during the 2024 Olympic Wrestling Trials in State College, Pennsylvania last April 19-20.

Attao placed third in the Greco-Roman Challenge Tournament Finals and just missed making the U.S.A. Olympic wrestling team after he lost to Adam Coon, via tech fall, 9-0.

The 130-kg Attao began his bid for the Olympic stage with a tech fall win over Courtney Freeman, 10-2.

However, with his third-place finish, Attao fell short of making the Olympic team, but clinched a spot in the U.S. senior national team.

To get a spot on the U.S.A. Wrestling Olympics team, a wrestler has to qualify for Olympic Team Trials through



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aden Attao points to the camera after a match he won. He placed third in the Olympic trials and solidified his spot on the U.S. senior national team during the 2024 Olympic Wrestling Trials in State College, Pennsylvania last April 19-20.

some of the qualifications or tournaments, then place first in their division of the Olympic Team Trials.

The 19-year-old was also supposed to compete for the NMI in the 2024 Micronesian Games from June 15-24, but decided to make the team and

compete for the Pan American Wrestling Championships—which is at the same time as the Micro Games, and also to be there for the Olympic team member if he needs a training partner.

With his third-place finish, Attao said, "It means a lot, it

means that all of the hard work I have been putting in is starting to pay off." The matchups he had were good, he said. "They were the ones I wanted and I wanted the rematch with the dude who's beat me in the previous two meetings and I got the rematch so the matchups were as good as I could've hoped for."

On the experience, he said, "Honestly, I think it's a great opportunity and experience. I'm not there yet since I didn't make the Olympic team but I'm ready to keep training and shoot for it in 2028."

As for his training and work ethic, he said it's been the same. The Oregon State University Beaver said he's been training hard and often, and keeps pushing no matter what. "Not making the Olympic Team is just going to cause me to train even harder and just make sure I make it next time."

He then said, "I just want to

thank my coaches, my family here and on the island as I have the best support system I could ask for and none of this would be possible without them."

The son of Jesse Attao and Stacey Hammar, Aden last visited the CNMI in 2011 when he was 6 years old. He is the grandson of Jesus and Ramona Attao.

Attao has a long list of accolades and in 2023 alone won the 2023 Dave Shul-

tz Idaho State Wrestler of the Year; was the 2023 U20 Pan American 130KG Greco champion; placed 7th in the 2023 U20 Greco World Championships 130KG; was the 2023 U20 UWW World Team Trials 130KG Greco Champion; U20 Freestyle WTT 2nd place; was the 2023 US Open U20 130KG Greco champion; was the 2023 Fargo Junior Greco 285# champion; Junior Freestyle 2nd place; and was the 2023 Idaho State 5A 285# State champion.

TANIA

From page 20

shaved more than 5 seconds from that time last Saturday.

This was her penultimate meet in her last NCAA season and placed 17th overall.

This time around, she said the meet was tough. "The conditions weren't the best; it was cold, gloomy, rainy, and windy."

She was going for a PR and wanted to break 18 minutes but fell short of her goal. However, she can't be mad at herself as "it was still a good race and I gave it my best!" said Tan.

In her last meet coming up, she'll run the 10,000m at the Big West Outdoor Track and Field Championships. She hopes to score some points

for her team—the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Rainbow Wahine and maybe that will come with another PR and record.

With one year almost down in her two-year graduate program, she wraps up her last year of eligibility in the NCAA this season.

She said, "As my NCAA season ends, it's a bittersweet feeling but I know I'm not done yet. I'm really looking forward to competing in the Oceania Champs and Micro Games in June! It'll be nice to compete in the Pacific islands again."

Last April 12-13, she competed in the Bryan Clay Invitational held last April 12-13 in Azusa, California and broke her PR and NMI 10,000m record with a time of 36:48.49.

Run Saipan hosts 4th Annual Star Wars Day Run/Walk



The Force is strong once again in the CNMI as runners and Star Wars enthusiasts prepare to gather for the 4th Annual Star Wars Day Run/Walk, hosted by Run Saipan. Taking place on May 4, 2024, at American Memorial Park, the event promises an exhilarating experience for participants of all ages.

In a galaxy not so far away, this year's Star Wars Day Run/Walk continues the tradition of blending fitness with fandom, inviting runners and walkers to embrace their inner Jedi or Sith as they traverse the scenic sites of Saipan. With a free one-mile event tailored for children aged 14 and under, as well as a 5K open to all ages, there's something for padawans and seasoned Jedi masters alike.

One of the highlights of this

year's event is the opportunity for participants to choose their allegiance with specially curated swag packages. Embrace the dark side with a storm trooper hoodie or proudly display your Rebel Alliance spirit with the Medal of Bravery, inspired by the heroic acts of Han Solo and Luke Skywalker in the epic saga's first installment. Run Saipan medals will be awarded to the top runners in each event and prizes are available for best Star Wars Themed Costumes.

"The Star Wars Day Run/Walk has become a tradition in the CNMI, bringing together fans of all ages to celebrate their love for the iconic franchise while promoting health and wellness," said Ron Snyder, secretary/treasurer of Run Saipan. "We're thrilled to continue this tradition and offer participants an unforgettable experience filled with fun, fitness, and



RUN SAIPAN

Saipan International School's Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez shows off 4th Annual Star Wars Day Run/Walk medal while posing with June Kim.

the Force. We understand that this is the final day of elementary track and field but we are hoping that we can provide a great event to those who did not secure a spot in the championship and a chance to warm up with a run/walk for those who are racing later in the day."

This year's event follows the success of the 2023 Re-

venge of the Sixth race, further solidifying the Star Wars Day Run/Walk as a staple in the CNMI's event calendar.

Registration for the Star Wars Day Run/Walk is now open, and participants are encouraged to secure their spots early to guarantee their preferred swag package. Whether you're a Rebel sympathizer or an Imperial loyalist, May the Fourth promises an adventure like no other in the CNMI.

For more information and to register, visit <https://raceroster.com/events/2024/83574/may-the-4th>.

Run Saipan is a leading organizer of fitness events in the CNMI. Committed to promoting health, wellness, and community engagement, Run Saipan hosts a variety of races and events throughout the year, including the annual Star Wars Day Run/Walk. For more information, visit <https://www.runsaipan.com/>. (PR)

NMI

From page 20

School System, through Athletic Department director Nick Gross, the interscholastic badminton program was established in 2021, featuring competitions in both high school and middle school divisions and also training students in umpiring and line judging, and teachers in coaching.

In the 2023 statistics released by the CNMI Public School System's Athletic Department, badminton regis-

tered a staggering 81% growth in participation—the highest among the seven sports played in the interscholastic level in the islands. That same year, the NMBA was able to assemble a junior national team that represented the NMI well in the U15 Pacific Invitation Team Challenge 2023 in New Zealand, as the group nearly made it to the medal podium.

As students' participation in interscholastic badminton continues to grow, the NMI's junior national team pool also deepens, boosting the NMBA's

grassroots program and giving the association more talents to tap for both international and regional competitions. This year, the NMBA took high and middle school players in Australia for the U17 Pacific Invitation Team Challenge 2024 and the NMI Junior National Team came back with a bronze medal.

More than this world recognition and other accolades, what inspires the NMBA more to strengthen the interscholastic program is its mission to help build a healthier community through sports involve-

ment. In the nomination form, Tolentino noted that in the Pacific where the NMI is part of, the percentage of people that are either overweight or obese is very alarming due to different factors, such as lack of exercise/activities.

"It is NMBA's hope that through the promotion of badminton among students, our youth will understand the importance of not only acquiring athletics skills, but also practicing healthy habits that they can carry on through their adult life," the NMBA president said. (PR)

5K

From page 20

Top 3 CHCC male/female employees

The CHCC men's division was topped by Kurt Songsong at 29:08; second went to Alan Zevallos at 31:13; and third was John Bigalbal at 31:56.

Abrahams, a CHCC resident in the Internal Medicine Department, was first with her time, with Run Saipan vice president and race organizer Dr. Jenna Kong in second at 26:42. Lauren Phinney was third at 30:33.

For Jim, he said he actually didn't plan on racing, but that his mom, Noriko, signed him up for it. During the race, he said he wasn't in the lead as the second place was up front, but after the halfway point toward the end, he sprinted and overtook him.

The sophomore is also competing in the finals of the NMA/PSS All-Schools Track and Field 2023-2024 set for this Friday and Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

As for Abrahams, who has been here for only about a week and a half, she said that the course was beautiful. "It's a beautiful path right by the ocean with the sun setting.

It's really picturesque and just a really great course." She wasn't in the lead the whole time because she said there were a lot of fast female runners, and just sprinted towards the end to clinch first.

Abrahams is visiting from the University of California San Francisco and said that everyone in the community has been so welcoming. "It obviously means a lot to participate that pairs the health of the community with the hospital that's been so gracious to have me and my co residents," she said.

Prior to the race, the Sunshine Squad, CHCC's charity/social events committee, donated \$500 to Run Saipan.

Kong, for her part, said after the event, "I think now that it's the third year, people really know about it and expect each year. I'm really proud that our CEO and CFO came to support us, along with a bunch of doctors, nurses, and other staff. So, I'm very proud of our hospital community coming out."

Kong added that they will have this race again next year. "I think we love the fact that it's a sunset course. This is a nice, relaxed, easy out and back along the beach, so I think we'll probably keep the same course."



LeBron scores 30; Lakers avoid 1st-round sweep vs Nuggets
PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

Aden 3rd in Olympic trials, clinches spot on wrestling nat'l team
PAGE 19



20 MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2024

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Takeru, Sara top CHCC 5K



LEIGH GASES

Sara Abrahams runs into first place of the female division in the 3rd Annual CHCC Happy Hearts 5K Fun Run & Walk last Saturday at the Garapan Fishing Base to Quarter Master Road and back.



LEIGH GASES

Takeru Jim runs into first place overall in the 3rd Annual CHCC Happy Hearts 5K Fun Run & Walk last Saturday at the Garapan Fishing Base to Quarter Master Road and back.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Takeru Jim and Sara Abrahams were the fastest out of over 100 runners in the 3rd Annual CHCC Happy Hearts 5K Fun Run & Walk last Saturday from the Garapan Fishing Base to Quarter Master Road and back.

Marianas High School student-athlete Jim was the fastest with a time of 19:05. Second place went to Craig Eaton at 19:13, and Landen Taflinger claimed third place with a time of 19:46. Abrahams was the fastest in the female division at 23:13. Second went to Addalee Taflinger who clocked in at 23:52, and Lovel Spaeth was third at 24:42. There was also a CHCC employees division, with medals given



See 5K on Page 19



LEIGH GASES

Run Saipan vice president and CHCC Sunshine Squad's Dr. Jenna Kong, second left, donated \$500 to Run Saipan. Right is Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. and third right is Run Saipan treasurer and secretary Dr. Ron Snyder.

NMI badminton shines in world stage

NMI badminton was recognized in the world stage, as the Northern Marianas Badminton Association was presented with a prestigious award during the Badminton World Federation's 3rd Annual Member Association Awards held in Chengdu, China last Saturday.



The NMBA won the BWF Member Association Participation Award for its Interscholastic Badminton League program that was first introduced in the islands in 2021, in partnership with the CNMI Public School System and TakeCare Insurance Company, Inc. The NMBA was presented with a plaque, trophy, and equipment grant for this accomplishment, with NMBA president Merlie Tolentino receiving the award from BWF deputy president Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul of Thailand.

The BWF Member Association Participation Award is one of the four awards contested by the 201 member-associations of the world governing body of badminton. The three others are Membership Grant Program Impact Award, In-

clusion Award, and Promotion Award. The awards are designed to showcase excellence and promote best practice across BWF's member-MAs, with nominees selected based on the program's excellence, innovation, impact, and sustainability.

"This recognition means a lot to us and to our partners in developing the sport of badminton in our islands. The NMBA would like to thank the CNMI Public School System, the teachers/coaches students, and officials of all public and private schools in the Northern Marianas, and TakeCare Insurance, for their contribution to the success of our interscholastic program. We would also like to acknowledge the continued support and opportunities that the NMBA has been receiving from Badminton World Federation, Badminton Oceania, and the Northern Marianas Sports Association," Tolentino said.

The NMBA is the first member of Badminton Oceania to have won the BWF Member Association Participation Award. It is also the first national sports federation



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Northern Marianas Badminton Association president Merlie Tolentino, right, receives the Badminton World Federation Member Association Participation Award from BWF deputy president Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul of Thailand during the 3rd Annual BWF Member Association Awards held in Chengdu, China last Saturday. Right photo is the BWF Member Association Participation Award.

in the NMI to win an award from a world governing body of sports.

"The significance of this award cannot be understated both for our region and for Northern Marianas Badminton, a small country of 50,000 people where badminton is now a sport of significance through the development work being done in the schools and with the juniors and the hosting of the two back-to-back international tournaments. I congratulate Merlie and her team for their achievements and know that badminton in Northern Marianas will continue to go from strength to strength,"

Badminton Oceania secretary

general Julie Carrel said.

The TakeCare-PSS Interscholastic Badminton League was established to give student-athletes a platform to develop their skills and compete for school pride. It started with the NMBA conducting a series of Shuttle Time sessions, an initiative of BWF with MAs like the NMBA going to school to offer free badminton clinics and equipment to encourage the youth to play badminton. Two years after consistently engaging schools, the NMBA was able to attract young players and grow the number of students interested in playing the sport. And with the help of the CNMI Public

See NMI on Page 19

Tania resets NMI 5,000m record, PB

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



It's just a little over two weeks since track star Tania Tan reset the NMI 10,000m record and she broke yet another record and her personal best in the NMI 5,000m with her time of 18:03.36 at the Oregon State High Perfor-

mance Track and Field Meet last Saturday.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa graduate student held the NMI record already during her record-breaking performance in the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands with her time of 18:08.69—which also gave her the gold medal. She

See TANIA on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tania Tan, right, in a photo finish captured during the Oregon State High Performance Track and Field Meet last Saturday.